DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE AND ITS KINDRED ARTS AND SCIENCES.

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FARM WORK FOR JUNE.

And after her came jolly June, arrayed
All in green leaves, as he a player were;
Yet in his time he wrought as well as played,
That by his plow-irons mote right well appear.
Spenser.

March, April and May, the three spring months for 1852, have been with us, performed their part in the cycle of the seasons, and are gone. That part has been rather a rough and boisterous one; now thick with sweeping snows, or changing into pelting hail; stinging with intense frosts, or pouring their drenching rains. *March* came in like a lion and went out so, wearing his grim visage through the month. It snowed all day on the second, and part of the thirty-first. *April* has the character of a flirt, whereof the memory of man runneth not to the contrary, and this year it was more fickle than ever, being so lachrymose as to run nearly all to tears! Imitating her sister March, she invaded the realms of Old Winter and sometimes arrayed herself in unbecoming garments —white, and spotless, it is true, but cold and heartless as the mercenary lover. *May*, once rejoicing all hearts at her return, and calling scores of youths and maidens into the field to pluck her fragrant flowers, the first offerings of the floral goddess to young and pure hearts—O, May! how art thou fallen! It was the delight of old Cato, and Virgil, and Columella, as well as of many of our nearer neighbors, to sing of thy charms, and praise thy rare delights in their immortal verse. But, alas! thou hast become as fickle as April, and we are prone to seek thy former beauty in thine other sister that *follows* in thy train. But thou art not all coldness and cloud; thy gentle nature gains the ascendant, as the month grows old, bringing the reluctant bud and blossom, with green fields and our cheerful friends, the birds, again. Welcome,

"Sweet day, so cool, so calm, so bright,
Bridal of the earth and sky."

Harbinger of lovely *June!* Welcome, with thy carpets of green, spicy gales, songs of birds, and low of kine.

Planting being over, there will be a little respite, a brief breathing place to look into all the affairs of the farm more leisurely, and attend to the smaller, but not minor, matters which the haste to get in the seeds has prevented. And first, let him who has had the forecast to plant a tree either this season or before, extend his care to it and extirpate its enemies,

The Borers.—They will make sad havoc with your fair orchard unless your own eye, and knife, and wire and hand are active. Now is the time to dislodge them; by scraping the earth carefully away from the base of the tree and closely examining it, the spoiler may be discovered either by his hole, his castings, which resemble saw-dust, or by some peculiar appearance of the tree. By inserting a small wire with the smallest possible hook upon its end, they may generally be drawn out; but if not brought to light the wire will kill them.

Thistles, mulleins, dockroots, burdocks, and all such rank herbage, will constantly spring up, especially about the buildings, unless the farmer is in the habit of destroying them. By neglect they sometimes cover large patches of excellent ground and render it worthless, beside disfiguring the premises and scattering their seeds over the farm. An hour or two at the right season will arrest them and save crop and character. The cure is to cut them off just below the surface and drop a handful of salt upon the bleeding wound; or sink the spade and start their roots and pull them up bodily. These, and the ox-eye daisy, or white weed, which is becoming so prevalent all over New England, should be wed out of the grain and grass fields upon their first appearance.

Hoeing.—No implement on the farm is in more demand than the *Hoe* in the month of June. Get a good one and keep it smooth and bright. Le it be of the right weight, remembering that he "who makes with a common hoe, two thousand strokes an hour, should not wield a needless

ounce. If any part is heavier than necessary, even to the amount of half an ounce only, he must repeatedly and continually lift the half ounce, so that the whole strength thus spent would be equal, in a day, to twelve hundred and fifty pounds, which ought to be exerted in stirring the soil and destroying the weeds." It is important, also, to see that the hoe stands just right, neither out nor in too much, but in that position which will enable the person to stand in an easy attitude while using it. Hoeing is of the utmost importance in farm husbandry. It keeps the ground in fine tilth, which is its proper condition to receive light and heat, and the important atmospheric influences.

Weeds.—These are merely grasses out of place. They get a great many kicks, cuts, and perhaps curses, from the indolent and thoughtless,—but they are really "blessings in disguise." How many fields and gardens would feel the plow and hoe, if no weeds appeared? and would present a hard, impervious crust, resisting all efforts of the genial sun or cooling dews to enter and feed the starving roots. But the weeds spring up as faithful monitors, to prompt us to duty! calling us from field to garden, as each demands attention. Look no longer, then, upon the weeds as pests and plagues, but by careful industry exclude them from the crops which you prefer to them.

Watering.—Water copiously and rarely; a constant drizzling cakes the ground, and is of little service to the roots.

The Garden.—Pass through the garden once a day, at least; give it an hour in the morning and another in the evening, if possible; no part of the farm will pay you better than the garden crops. Coop some of the hens near and allow the chickens to go at will over the garden; and they will be able to obtain what meat they require with their vegetable diet.

Sow melons and cucumbers towards the last of the month for pickling.

Grass.—In rich, moist spots, grass will grow rank, and sometimes lodge before the end of June. This should be cut early, and another crop may be taken from the same ground.

Cattle.—The stock still needs the master's eye. A little extra attention keeps the animals healthy and thrifty, and that is the only possible condition in which a profit can be derived from them.

Many things.—The merchant watches the daily fluctuation of prices in his business, and calculates the loss and gain on them with eagle eye. So should the farmer watch every minute innovation, whether by insect or weed, upon his crops, and carefully attend to each at the particular season when they demand it. *Promptness*, as well as neatness and order, should prevail in every department of the farm.

It seems to us that June answers the descriptions of May, by the old writers. It is full of life and beauty, and invitations to the country.

> In this fair month, when all things bloom,
> Come to the green mead, come away!
> Where joyous ply the morning larks,
> And bob-o-links their minstrelsy.

IS IT NOT SO?

Agriculture must always be the main business of the country; but, singularly enough, it is almost the only business that is not ruinously overdone. Men rush into everything else with headlong avidity, or loiter around cities by thousands for chance employment, while broad fields are waiting for the husbandman, on every side, proclaiming that "the harvest is great, but the laborers are few." We think the *New York Express* hits the nail on the head, in the following paragraph:—

"The high prices of beef, veal, mutton, butter, potatoes, and other such necessaries of life, not only in this great metropolis, but in other cities on the Atlantic, indicates something wrong in the mode of providing for the markets, or the forwarding of things to market. Be the causes of high prices, however, what they may, if the cause be good, *more farmers are needed than we have. Agriculture*, prices tell us, *is underdone, and other things are overdone. There are not enough raisers of food properly to supply the devourers.*"

Barns.—The drawing of the barn in this number of the *Farmer* was furnished us by Mr. J. H. Hammond, of Grafton, Mass., who offers his professional services to farmers, and others who are about erecting or altering their buildings, in an advertisement in another part of the paper. We believe his views will be the means of making a material change in the construction of barns, particularly, and take pleasure in calling attention to them. His address is Grafton, Mass., and we recommend him as a gentleman thoroughly understanding the wants of the farmer in the matter of farm buildings.

A Glass Tower.—It is proposed in London to convert the Crystal Palace into a glass tower, 1000 feet in height, and a plan and drawing of the new idea is given in the *London Builder* of the 1st of May. It looks beautifully poetic on paper, but whether a structure of the proposed height can be made self-sustaining, there is some doubt; at any rate, we should prefer a residence a little over 1000 feet from its base, had we a choice, or should we ever be compelled to live in a garret in the great metropolis.—*Transcript.*

Care for Others.—A poor old man, busy planting an apple-tree, was rudely asked, "What do you plant trees for; you cannot expect to eat the fruit of them?" He raised himself up, and leaning upon his spade, answered, "Some one planted trees for me before I was born, and I have eaten the fruit. I now plant for others, to show my gratitude, when I am dead and gone." Thus should we think and act for the welfare of others.—*Exchange.*

For the New England Farmer.

DEEP PLOWING ACCOMPANYING HIGH MANURING,

AN ANTIDOTE TO NEW ENGLAND STERILITY.

BY F. HOLBROOK.

I have through the agricultural journals so often and earnestly expressed my views upon the subject of deep plowing, that those who have taken the trouble to read what I have written may consider the following remarks an unnecessary repetition. But the application of "line upon line, and precept upon precept," is important in more connections than one; and besides, the *New England Farmer* is doing its share with the other journals in making inroads upon that large class who have opposed all innovations upon traditional customs of husbandry; and by inducing the accessions from that class to read and reflect a little now and then, it is expected that a gradual triumph over their prejudices will be attained, that they will reason correctly upon the alterations in the course of farming which present circumstances demand, and make such changes and improvements as reason suggests. I hope to persuade now and then a reader who has heretofore practiced shallow plowing, to put his plow a little deeper into the ground, this very spring. That a shallow soil may gradually be made a deep one, with profit to the owner, is a proposition, both theoretically and practically considered, in the truth of which I fully believe; and to do and say whatever I can to convince others of its truth, and persuade them to practice accordingly, is my settled and resolute determination.

New England soils are generally by nature too shallow; and what is worse, they have in many instances been subjected to a process of exhaustion which they never were by nature or the art of man, at all fitted to endure. Too much of our tillage land has been plowed but four or five inches deep, scantily manured, and severely cropped; and thousands of acres of plain and pasture lands have been skimmed by the plow and taxed with a succession of grain crops, without manure, until they can not give up anything further of value to the owner. The cry has been, "give, give;" and if the soil has from time to time reminded the owner that he was robbing it of the ability to answer his greedy call, he has sheltered himself under the plea of inability to return an equivalent for its generosity. If the Agricultural journals and others have hinted that he should plow deep, manure generously, and crop less severely, the reply has been that such doctrines may do for book-farmers and men of fortune; but the *practical* farmer has no interest in them: he must get what he can from the ground, with the least possible particularity of tillage; and as for deep plowing, it is easier to plow shallow; and as for high manuring, it cannot be afforded: he has not the funds to buy manure, and it is too much trouble and expense to manufacture it.

But the skinning mode of farming has had a fair and faithful trial in New England, and we have now full proof that it will not do. The original projectors of the system made perhaps pretty fair profits by it, but their successors cannot profitably prosecute the depleting process. Men now-a-days must either make up their minds to adopt a system of farming improving to the land, or else sell out and go at some other business, or go West, where a virgin soil will permit an application of the old system for a generation or so. If we further attempt to force the old system upon the land here in New England, poverty or the auctioneer's hammer will ultimately command us to leave off.

It is encouraging to observe that new and better principles of cultivation are gradually gaining ascendancy. Our enterprising farmers, those who read, observe and reflect for themselves, are awake to improvements; a large class are yearly going to farming from other pursuits, with minds free from prejudice, bringing to their new business a laudable enthusiasm, and enterprising, liberalized views; the leaven thus infused is exerting a marked and useful influence; and New England farming is certainly improving.

In a former communication, I dwelt upon the importance of an industrious manufacture of compost-manure, and a liberal application of the manure to the land; and remarked that thus we may cause now desert places to blossom again, and make the cultivation of New England soil a remunerating business. It is my present purpose to speak of deep plowing, as a fit companion of high manuring.

Generally speaking, the farmers of New England may advantageously deepen their plowing at least an inch at each breaking up of the fields from grass, or during each rotation of crops, provided the process is accompanied by a liberal dressing of manure. In some cases the deepening process may be twice as rapid, and I shall presently instance a case. In proportion as the surface soil is properly deepened, so will the roots of the crops have more extensive pasture, and greater protection from the scorching influence of drought. When soils naturally inclined to pack are invariably plowed in shallow furrows, a hard crust or *pan* is formed at the bottom of the furrow, by the action of the feet of the cattle and the sole of the plow, through which the little rootlets cannot penetrate; and this barrier being near the surface, the roots suffer for moisture in a time of drought, and the crop is thereby lessened. In proportion as land is deeply plowed, so is there a greater amount of loose earth on the upper side of the inverted furrows, out of which the harrow can make a deep fine mellow tilth, so that the planting and after cultivation of the crop is made easy and cheap, and the young plants can strike out their roots freely in every direction, and come forward rapidly in the fore part of the season. Compost-manure, especially if it is made of two parts muck, is very favorable to the productiveness of crops, when kept near the surface; and in proportion as the plowing is deep, so can the manure be intimately blended with the earth, and its volatile properties preserved. Proper deepening of the soil is favorable to a succession of good grass crops, because the land does not soon become "bound out," the roots having a good range, and not becoming so soon entangled in a thickly matted web, as they do where the soil and plowing are shallow. When grass land is broken up in deep furrows, there will be a sufficiency of loose mellow earth above the inverted sod for all the purposes of planting, and afterwards of seeding with grain and grass seeds, without bringing the turf again to the surface. The decaying sod, lying at the bottom of the furrow, through the whole rotation, is a soft yielding, spongy bed to keep the land up light,

a rich mass of decaying vegetable matter furnishing nourishment to the little rootlets, which penetrate it in all directions, and a reservoir to retain moisture through a considerable period of drought. What was before plowing the poor lower stratum thus remains on the surface through the whole rotation, is altered and improved by the action of the atmosphere, and enriched by contributions from the atmosphere, and by the manure; the grasses form a rich sward in it, which in due time is turned under to decay in it and fill it with vegetable substance, and thus a formerly poor and inactive substratum becomes as active and good a portion of the soil as any.

The statements made in the foregoing paragraph are well illustrated in my own practice. Sixteen years ago, I determined to commence the deepening of my surface soil. A description of my course of management with a field of five acres, now in corn-stubble and to be seeded to grass the present spring, will afford an example of my practice generally in deepening the active soil. The field is a sandy loam, portions of which are quickly susceptible to the influence of drought. Previous to the time when I commenced deeper plowing, the land had never been turned up more than four to five inches deep; but it had been well farmed, and was in good heart to that depth. In the month of November, it was broken up from grass to the depth of seven inches, the furrows remaining through the winter as laid by the plow, exposed to the action of the elements. In May, thirty loads, or fifteen cords, of a compost made of two parts muck to one of animal manure, were spread on each acre, and the harrow was passed back and forth, lengthwise and crosswise the furrows, until the dressing was intimately mingled with the earth to the depth of three or four inches. The field was then planted with corn, and the crop was early matured and exceeded sixty bushels to the acre. The next spring the surface was made perfectly level and mellow with the harrow, without disturbing the decaying turf underneath, and grass seeds were liberally sown with oats. The crop of oats was highly satisfactory in amount and quality, and the grass crops made better than two tons of hay to the acre per year, as long as the land lay in grass. The field was again broken up from sod, from eight to nine inches deep, in the month of November, the land was manured as before, planted, and seeded to grass as before, leaving the decaying sod undisturbed. The crops were all excellent. A year ago last November, the field was again plowed up from grass, in furrows ten inches deep. Last spring it was manured with fifteen cords of compost per acre, and planted with corn. The crop was very heavy, and of fine quality, notwithstanding the season was not one of the best for the corn crop. The present spring, the field will be plowed about five inches deep, in furrows nine to ten inches wide, sown with spring grain, and stocked to grass with one bushel of red top, eight pounds of white clover and six pounds of southern red clover seeds to each acre. I expect to see a fine carpet of grass covering the field, and hereafter to gather from two to three tons per acre, each of four years, of as milk producing hay as any body else will have. This field now presents a uniformly rich soil to the depth of ten inches. I really believe that commencing with last year's crop it will for five or six years compare favorably in product and profit with almost any other field of equal size, excepting perhaps the river-bottoms of the West.

I have other fields, not naturally of as good soil as the one above described, upon which the deepening process has necessarily been more gradual, about an inch at each rotation, and which have not yet been plowed over eight inches deep. But any of my land, however barren and thin, is very decidedly improved in productive quality, by deeper and deeper plowing, accompanied with liberal manuring.

I have to say to the young farmer, in debt for a poor old exhausted farm—do not suffer yourself to be fettered by old customs, but think for yourselves; and let reason rather than tradition superintend and direct your operations. Innovate at once upon the old skinning system of farming. Manufacture manure, apply it liberally, and deepen your plowing as fast as you can, judiciously. Your lands will grow more and more productive under such treatment, and furnish you the means of getting out of debt; in a few years you will have a farm pleasant and profitable for cultivation; and as you grow older, and have less ability to labor hard for bread, your farm will produce it for you with less labor than is now necessary, and give you the means for improving yourself and your family. F. H.

Brattleboro', April 20, 1852.

FARMER'S GUIDE—GRASSES.

In looking over the pages of this excellent work, we notice in that portion devoted to the discussion of spring employments, that particular attention is paid to the subject of grasses. This prompts us to suggest to those sowing grass seeds, the importance of mixing such grasses as will come into bloom at about the same time. Some grasses come to perfection sooner than others, and when growing with a later kind, the former loses its leaves, the nutrient portions of the stem go to perfect the seed, and the grass itself is nearly worthless to cut as fodder. This loss may be prevented in part by a proper intermingling of seeds.

In speaking more at length of the *Farmer's Guide* some weeks since, we stated that there were eight beautiful engravings on steel. Whether it was an error of pen or press, we do not know; but the statement should have been, as the fact is, that there are *fourteen* elegant engravings on steel. We shall have frequent occasion to refer to this full and comprehensive work.

Massachusetts Agricultural Transactions.—We have received a copy of the above work through the polite attentions of the Hon. F. R. Gourgas, of the Council. We shall take occasion to examine and refer to it hereafter.

American Veterinary Journal. Boston: Geo. H. Dadd, Editor.—The first article in this number, on "Bone Disorder in Cows," is worth the price of the magazine for the year.

For the New England Farmer.

OUTBURST OF SPRING.

BY HENRY F. FRENCH.

The true measure of time—The force and vigor of the farmer's character developed in the Spring—Agriculture is cheerful—"Laugh and be fat."

My Dear Brown:—Somebody says that *Spring* in New England may be defined as a *leap* from Winter to Summer, and verily, the space between the sublime and the ridiculous is not shorter than the disjunctive conjunction between good sleighing and apple-blossoms in New Hampshire. Twelve days ago I saw the hills fifty miles north of us covered with deep snows, the melting of which by the sun, without rain, has since raised the Merrimack twelve inches in a single day; and now with us, the oak leaf is almost "as large as a mouse's ear," indicating that the corn-planting season is at hand.

Since the ground became pervious to spade and plowshare, I have wrought diligently both with my own personal, and my *hired* hands, setting fruit trees and a good example to my neighbors at the same time. Having added one hundred and sixty trees to my apple orchard, and an indefinite quantity of plums, cherries, peaches and ornamental trees and shrubs to the once wide waste of pine plain around my dwelling, I faithfully devote the first hour in which it is too rainy to work on the *outside* of the world, to an attempt to operate on the world within. I hope to transplant about three hundred pine trees this week, yet, and shall throw down the paper and the pen, and "take up the shovel and the hoe" at the first streak of light in the West, and therefore although I feel disposed to report myself in the columns of the *Farmer*, I have no idea of undertaking any great labor, like boring the Hoosack mountain, or our amiable readers, with a patent drill, or any other *article*, at this busy season, when a farmer's time is all occupied in working by day, and sleeping by night, through the week, and resting and *going to meeting* (I like the old Puritan phrase) on Sunday.

It is thought by the learned, that the only true measure of time we have, is by the variety and succession of our ideas; that if all the chronometers were suddenly changed so as to run twice as fast as now, and the sun and moon and stars, and all creation beside, were accelerated in the same proportion, and events and thoughts and emotions were to occur with double rapidity, we should be utterly unconscious of any change, and should, to all intents and purposes, live as long as we now do, in half the time! Distance across smooth water seems less than it is. We lie down to rest at night, and awake after hours of sound sleep, and the lapse of time is as if it had not been. Were the sleep to continue twenty years, like Rip Van Winkle's, we should be alike unconscious that a score had been added to our age, and the theory of those, who believe that the soul, after death, will rest unconscious till the final judgment of all, although it is almost as abhorent to our feelings as annihilation, is supported by the philosophical argument, that a suspension of consciousness and of all the mental faculties may as well be for ages, as for the length of a siesta, and that time is nothing, except as it is marked by thought or sensation. When a great mathematician was shown a beautiful group of statuary, he inquired with the greatest coolness, "what does it go to *prove?*" and perhaps the foregoing piece of mosaic may suggest the same question, and so I will explain its connexion with the preceding train of thought. Notwithstanding our long and dreary winters, and that we have flowers and green leaves but four or five months of the year, the memory of our childhood and the anticipations of our future are adorned with vernal beauty and fragrant with spring flowers, and although our spring is like the outburst of a passion of joy or of love, sudden and transient in its manifestation, still it is marked by a thousand vivid impressions. It is full of life, of energy and activity, of intense emotion and of definite thought wrought out into determinate manifest fact, and so the season by the *true* measure is indeed a great part of our life.

The drowning man sees the daguerreotype of his whole life pass before him in an instant. The company of his whole life acts rise up before him like the ghosts of Richard's victims in his tent on Bosworth field, pointing their dreadful fingers, and crying with one voice,

"Let me sit heavy on thy soul to-morrow."

The events of a lifetime are crowded into a moment, rendering intelligible the idea of a day when for every word and act an account shall be rendered. The farmer in New England has much of the real force and vigor of his character developed at this season. He must labor, body and mind, sustained by faith in the promise, that seed time and harvest shall not fail. He *should* labor, conscious that he is surrounded by wondrous workings of Nature's hidden laws, at every step. He *should* labor, striving ever to learn so much of those laws as science has revealed, to do his part with an earnest and manly heart, ever conscious and thankful that the hand of Omnipotence is aiding him in whatever surpasses human power. He *should* labor, not only as for his daily bread, but in sympathy with all around him, ever seeking, as he sees the bud open into a blossom, and the chrysalis become a butterfly, a *higher and truer life*. Why should *he* alone remain stationary when all else is advancing, while

"Every clod feels a stir of might,
An instinct within it that reaches and towers,
And grasping blindly above it for light,
Climbs to a soul in grass and flowers."

You see, my dear Brown, that I am not in the mood at this time to discourse didactically of corn and composts, potatoes and pumpkins. There are other things in agriculture, "than were ever dreamed of in the philosophy" of many, and it is of as much importance that the hearts of men should be opened to receive the lessons of God's teaching, as that the earth should be opened for the seed of the sower.

I knew a lady who had recently visited the White Mountains, and was asked if she was not very much impressed with the beauty and grandeur of the scenery. "The scenery," she replied, "I never once thought of that!" Many men see nothing in the fields and woods, but hay and firewood. To them "the bird is but a flying animal, and the flower but the covering of a clod." Well has the poet said,

"For a cap and bells our lives we pay,
Bubbles we earn with a whole soul's tasking;
'Tis Heaven alone that is given away,
'Tis only God may be had for the asking;
There is no price set on the lavish summer,
And June may be had by the poorest comer"

Everybody, in travelling, likes to see mile-stones, and I think it is well enough for you and brother Holbrook and myself to observe "in this merry month of May," that a half year has passed us by, since in the times of cattle shows and the Indian summer, we hoisted our tri-colored flag at the head of the *Farmer*.

I like your idea of giving your readers an apology for a hearty laugh occasionally and ridding agriculture of the common association with the idea of ox teams and sober faces, and everything else that is slow and dull. It has been said that the devil gets all the good music away from the church, for dancing tunes. Let us not allow him to get all the fun and spirit out of the three-quarters who till the earth, into the other quarter who worship Mammon in offices and counting-rooms.

With the eastern benediction, "May your shadow never be less," I remain your friend,

Exeter, N. H., May 12, 1852. H. F. F.

ALUMINA.

This simple earth is of great importance in agriculture. It consists of a metallic basis, united with oxygen. Clay is an admixture of alumina, silica (sand,) and oxide of iron. Next to silica, alumina is the earth most commonly found in soils, and it likewise enters largely as a constituent into most of the stony masses found on, and beneath their surface. It combines readily with carbonic acid, and forms a solid compound with it, as is illustrated in the union of lime and magnesia. It has a much greater affinity for water, than any of the other simple earths. Of this fluid, when recently precipitated, it has been found to contain six times its own weight; but when dried, by the application of moderate, but well sustained heat, it is incapable of retaining more than one and one-third times, or at most, two times its weight, without falling. When heated to redness, and even when dried at a very high temperature, it loses its power of retention, and is capable of retaining only a very diminished portion of water. Silica and alumina, which are the components of clay, are not simply mingled together in its constitution, as some of the earlier writers have supposed, but are chemically combined. In most of the clay found on or near the surface, is mixed an extra quantity of silica, known by the common appellation of *sand*. In all clay, there is a certain quantity of iron in a higher or lower state of oxidation. This oxide is formed by the union of the metal with oxygen, a unison easily effected by the aid of water, or of simple moisture. It consequently varies essentially as to its characteristics and value, both as regards agricultural and mechanical purposes.

Some clay is nearly worthless when applied to soils, while other kinds are of great value. By an admixture of clay with common sand, or silex, we are enabled to form a soil of surprising and permanent richness, and it is for this purpose that clay assumes its chief importance in agriculture. If a sandy soil be overlaid with a stratum of clay, four inches deep, and carefully plowed and worked, so as thoroughly to comminute and mix the clayey particles with about eight inches of the surface soil, the mechanical action of the application will so far modify the constitution of the soil, as to render it highly fertile. Not only will it effect the consolidation of the constituent particles, rendering the soil more firm and compressible, but also increase its capacity of retaining moisture, a property of which, in their natural and unameliorated state, such sorts are almost wholly deficient. But where soils are to be permanently improved by the admixture of clay, the most judicious, and perhaps the most economical method the operator can adopt, is to use it in compost. It will thus be more perfectly disintegrated, and prepared for mixing more intimately with the particles of the soil to which it is to be applied. When hauled upon the land and spread, it will rarely be reduced to that degree of fineness which is necessary to effect a thorough intermixture, without a much larger amount of labor than most farmers can afford, or be induced, by considerations of mere utility, to bestow.

When, however, this plan of application is adopted, it is well to haul on, and spread the clay in autumn, that it may be subjected to the disintegrating and pulverulent action of frost. In this way, the separation of the solid, or more compact masses, will be effected, and the communication of their particles greatly accelerated by the expansion of the water by freezing,—a process during which crystals or nudles of ice separate the molecules of clay, and facilitate amalgamation of them with the soil to which it is applied.

The retentive power of clay is very great. It yields up the water it has absorbed with great difficulty, and the more so, in proportion to its purity, or "fatness." It is well known that sandy soils —those composed principally of silex, and clayey soils, those composed of aluminous particles, differ from each other in two very important characteristics. Lime and alumina have a very strong affinity for organic matter and moisture, and retain both by a powerful attraction, while sand possesses no such affinity, only commingling, and never chemically combining with it, to any extent. Owing to its extreme porosity and lax texture, it opposes no resistance to the rapid and almost immediate escape of those alimentary matters which are applied as sustenance for growing crops. All the fructiferous properties of the manures applied are thus speedily abstracted by their ready combinations with the components of water, supplied by depositions from the atmosphere. But clay obviates this waste by producing a constitutional modification which renders escape impossible.

When a sandy soil has once been thoroughly ameliorated by the application of a *quantum sufficit* of good clay, it never afterwards falls back to

its normal condition of semi-fertility, but with the application of a far smaller amount of manure, continues to produce affluently all such crops as are adapted to it in its improved and modified character. The amount of clay requisite to effect a complete and radical amelioration, is a matter to be decided only by observation and experiment. Various rules have been laid down and numerous theories elaborated with a view to illustrate this important point; yet the true touch-stone is, in the case of the practical operator—EXPERIMENT. The old adage, "Circumstances alter cases," applies here with peculiar force, for no two fields are exactly alike, or require precisely the same treatment to render them productive.

For the New England Farmer.

DURATION OF VITALITY OF SEEDS.

BY W. J. A. B.

When I first put my hand to the plow, and began to exercise that most noble of all arts, tilling the ground, I had many instructions and monitions of wisdom from my kind neighbors, the farmers. I then found that in the country, kindness was quite as common as in the town. For I was immediately loaded down with as much as I could carry, in the shape of advice; and that in a form which was intended to leave nothing to my own indiscretion, being given as the result of experience which no one unless he were fool-hardy would disregard, and neglecting which he could reap only disaster and ruin. The benevolent counsels were bestowed as freely and with the same force of authority by the lad who on the same day had plowed his first acre, as by the sturdy yeoman who had sowed and reaped under sixty suns. One of my early lessons in the art was that I must take care to procure seed of the last harvest;—and that if I should sow that which was two years old, I should "have my labor for my gains." I soon found, however, that this was an error,—and that some other opinions and practices of the best farmers were either offsprings of the same family, and born of error,—or were only distant and collateral offsets of the tree of truth, enfeebled and diseased by contact with, or the overshadowing influence of error. Having obtained some seeds of tomatoes which I had not opportunity to commit to the earth the first season, they were placed in my trunk and there remained four years. At the end of this time, wishing to raise some of that very wholesome and agreeable vegetable, I planted my old seeds, which came up without failure of a hill, and yielded a most abundant and excellent crop.

But, gentlemen, as I have reason to think that a great many farmers are yet led astray by the old opinion which has been so current with them in relation to this matter, I desire to communicate to them, through your columns, other instances beside those in my own experience, which show the opinion to be erroneous.

Dr. Lindley, the eminent botanist and author, says, "I have now before me three raspberry plants which have been raised in the gardens of the Horticultural Society, from seeds taken from the stomach of a man whose skeleton was found 30 feet below the surface of the earth, at the bottom of a barrow which was opened near Dorchester. He had been buried with some coins of the Emperor Hadrian." It is supposed the body had lain in that place 1600 or 1700 years.

Near Stirling, in Scotland, the workmen engaged in laying bare the clay soil, underlying 14 feet of peat bog, for cultivation, threw out some clay in which the parish clergyman who was looking on espied some seeds. He took them and planted them, and they produced a species of chrysanthemum.

Some years ago, some well-diggers in Maine struck, at 20 feet below the surface, and a distance of 40 miles from the sea, a layer of sand, which excited curiosity, as none similar, so far as known, existed nearer than the sea-beach. It was scattered about the spot, and in a year or two the ground was overgrown with young beach plums, which had never been seen before except on the beach.

The seeds of the beach plums and chrysanthemum must have lain buried for ages. The duration of vitality in seeds seems to be unlimited, or nearly so, provided they are in conditions which neither call their properties into exercise nor occasion their decay. These conditions favorable to the preservation of seeds are a low temperature, dryness, and exclusion from the influence of oxygen. Seeds may be kept many years without injury, if moisture and oxygen be not entirely excluded, if the temperature be low and uniform, and the moisture slight, so as not to cause them to decay. Seeds preserved in the herbarium of Tournefort, a French naturalist, were found to retain their fertility after the lapse of nearly a century.

These instances, except the one coming under my own knowledge, are related from the most authentic sources. I find them in a recent very valuable and reliable treatise on Vegetable Physiology, printed at Philadelphia.

There is no doubt that seeds may be placed in such circumstances as to destroy their vitality in two or three years; but my purpose is twofold;—first to show the causes of this deterioration, so that farmers and others may be enabled to preserve their seeds for more than one year;—and second, to disabuse them of the erroneous opinion which they have so long held in relation to this matter. By packing them in papers or vessels so that the air may not come to them, and placing them in a cool and dry place, they may keep them a lifetime without loss of their fertilizing property.

SALE OF IMPROVED STOCK.—The third annual sale, by auction, of Mr. MORRIS' improved breeds of domestic animals, will take place at Mount Fordham, Westchester Co., 11 miles from New York City, on *Wednesday, June* 9, 1852. The particulars of this sale are in another column, to which we refer the reader. Mr. Morris' knowledge of what good stock is, together with his character for fair and honorable dealing, render this sale unusually attractive to those wishing to purchase.

SHEEP.—We learn through the *Vermont State Journal* that S. M. JEWETT, Esq., whose communications have frequently appeared in the *Farmer*

upon the subject of sheep, has just returned from France with a new importation of one hundred and fifty ewes and fifteen bucks. The latter are fourteen months old, and weigh about 200 lbs. each; all purchased from the best flocks in France.

For the New England Farmer.

"DON'T KILL THE BIRDS."

BY A. TODD.

Notwithstanding much has been said and written in regard to the destruction of the feathered tribe, it may not be out of place to revive it occasionally in the hearing of those who are prone to destroy these harmless and musical little warblers. Did every one love birds as well as I do,—did every one delight in hearing their merry and gladsome notes, few would be the birds destroyed on the farmer's premises. But cruel as it is to take the life of the birds that build their nests and rear their young among the shrubbery around our meadows and pastures, and even under our very windows, I have myself, in days gone by, been guilty of such acts of cruelty. Gladly would I, if I could, restore to life every innocent bird I have been guilty of destroying; but it is too late.

For mere sport, multitudes of the feathered tribe are destroyed every year by the gun of the fowler. For having been guilty of such acts, I almost think I can, in part, excuse *myself*, from the fact that I was taught to believe that birds were great depredators. The kingbird must be killed because he caught the honey-bee; the blackbird and brown-thresher must be destroyed because they pulled up the farmer's corn, and so on, different birds doing different kinds of mischief; and for this reason little partiality was shown, and I thought the more were the birds killed, the less would the farmer's crops be destroyed. Philosophical reasonings, truly! I can call to mind many times when I have been well nigh affected to tears in witnessing the death-struggles of the little warblers that have fallen at my feet, pierced with leaden missiles.—Often have I called to mind what L'Estrange in his Fables says in regard to the observation made by the frogs to some frolicsome boys—"Children, you do not consider, that though this may be sport to you, it is death to us."

Like other boys, I was fond of *sport*, notwithstanding such sport resulted in the death of those creatures that had an undoubted right to live. I will mention an instance or an incident that I witnessed in my sporting days that cured me of indulging in the cruel habit. It used to be rare sport for me to "*bark*" squirrels from limbs of tall trees, with the single bullet, or sever their tails from their bodies and let them go free. On one occasion, as a pretty red squirrel sat eating his nuts, with his bushy tail spread over his back, I fired a bullet, and not only severed his tail, but inflicted a death-wound in the hind part of his body. Never shall I forget how my feelings were wrought upon, as the little fellow fell to the ground. With what a pitiful look did he cast his eyes towards me, and with fore paws raised for protection, seemed to say,—*What have I done?* Need I say this was the last time I ever indulged in this cruel sport?

Sporting for pleasure, and destroying the innocent creatures God has made, (and for which he has provided ample room,) is indeed a *cruel* pleasure. To me it seems right to spare the creatures He has made, (especially the birds,) inasmuch as every thing was made for some good and wise purpose. The earth is wide, and room enough for them and us. Each have their privileged space, and—

"He that hunts
Or harms them there, is guilty of a wrong;
Disturbs th' economy of nature's realm,
Who, when she formed designed them an abode."

Smithfield, R. I. A. T.

For the New England Farmer.

WORN OUT SOIL.

The exhaustion of the soil, which for so long a time has been carried on in New England, will not be fully realized till there ceases to be any unoccupied land in this country. It is generally admitted that land which a few years ago would produce fifty bushels of grain, has been so impoverished, that it will not produce fifteen bushels. It has been truly said, that "there is nothing lost on a farm, unless it be burned or drowned."

But I think that it can be truly said, that whatever is burned or drowned is not lost. For the burning combustibles ascending to the clouds in smoke, return to the earth in the genial dew, and refreshing rain, and the carbon which is thus diffused in the atmosphere is absorbed in vegetation.

From our over-tasked soil, yielding her abundance of produce, which is sent to foreign shores, there is nothing left to restore its healthful vigor. This fact should teach the farmer the utility of so diversifying his labor, that it would be less exhausting to the soil, and check the desire of exporting the best product of the land, and receiving in return that which will yield him nothing but leanness of body and barrenness of soul.

Quite a difference in this respect exists between this country and England. The latter exports her metals and her manufactures, and her various productions from under the surface of the earth. Also the various manufactures of silk, cotton, and wool. She imports vast quantities of food from her less provident neighbors, all of which is consumed by her various operatives in the manufacture of metals, wool, &c., &c., a part of which is returned to the soil, which so enriches it as to produce threefold more than it would otherwise do. We on the contrary import metals and manufactures, which will never mingle with the soil, and export vegetable fertilizing matter the bulk of thousands and thousands of acres.

England retains all the elements of her fertilization existing in the refuse of her own crops, and also that of her imported food, while instead of encouraging the creation of consumers in part, in the place of producers alone, we compel the American agriculturist to export a large part of the fertilizing elements of each crop to nourish foreign production. D.

April 26, 1852.

BLIND TEETH IN HORSES.—William Little, of Poland, Ohio, relates a case of a stallion of his having gone entirely blind without any apparent cause. A friend who examined him, found "blind or wolf teeth," which were immediately knocked out, and the horse soon recovered his sight.—*Albany Cultivator.*

EMPIRE STATE.

The above engraving, procured expressly for our columns, represents the beautiful horse, called by his owners, Messrs. TROWBRIDGE & MATHES, "Empire State." They purchased him of a gentleman in New York, about one year ago, who valued him for his qualities as a business and pleasure horse, being safe, of fine figure and action, and of great speed and endurance. The present owners have recently refused $3000 for him, and prices varying from $100 to $200 have been offered for colts of his at four months old.

This horse was raised in Wyoming Co., N. Y., will be eight years old the coming summer, and is a natural trotting horse, a proof of which was had at Cambridge Park last fall, in a trial for a purse with the celebrated trotting horse "Flying Morgan."

The said Morgan came here from Vermont for a trial of speed with a mare of the Black Hawk stock, and beat the mare. This horse afterwards contested with the Flying Morgan horse, and won the race, we are informed, with perfect ease, in 2 minutes and 45 seconds, in harness, without fitting or training, and it is said can trot at any time in 2 minutes and 45 seconds in the same condition. With proper training he would trot much faster. It is believed by many that no *entire* horse in New England can compete with the "Empire State" in point of speed, style, blood, and docility of temper.

This horse is a descendant of the English horse Messenger, imported into this country about the close of the last century. His stock was distinguished as strong and valuable roadsters, and fast trotters, and some of his progeny were eminent as racers.

For the New England Farmer.

"TYING UP CATTLE."

MR. EDITOR:—Were a school-ma'am to ask me that geography question again, "What are the principal bodies of water upon the globe," I know I should head the list with *Concord River!* The water is very *high* for the reason that it has been *falling* for four long days. Farmers in our neighborhood wonder when they shall "get hold of their spring work." We are all sadly behind hand. When the sun does get out in sight, there will have to be some "stirring round."

It seems the editor of the *Germantown Telegraph* is down on that "Tying up Cattle" article, published in the *Farmer* a few weeks ago. He won't admit the *improvement* part of it anyhow. He says the stanchion mode of tying up cattle has been in use in France a long time. How he got the idea that any originality was claimed for it, is more than I can see. He says, "There is (in the cut) a *Yankee* addition (oh, what does he mean by that?) perhaps patented (!) attached to it of *ropes*, *cranks*, and *screws*, which we regard as utterly destroying the French plan." He then gives the "*French plan*" without any of these obnoxious "Yankee additions."

The French plan of stanchion fastenings is, to have no hay-racks, but a good sized trough beyond the stanchions, (in front?) into which all the provender of (for) the cattle is placed, and which can be got at by the cattle only by the head through the opening made by the sliding of the upper part of the moveable bar. The cattle in a day or two, thrust their heads through this opening, which is quite large, as freely as they enter their stalls; when the tender passes along the en-

try or fodder-way, and with no more effort than it would take to throw a handful of meal into the trough, places the movable stanchion in its upright position, which, by a falling latch or key, fastens itself.

The *Telegraph* thinks this arrangement for securing the "unruly beef" altogether ahead of "our" way. To me it seems quite evident that some of the cattle would start back just at the critical moment and leave the "latch" to "fasten itself" and nothing else; the horns would happen to be on the wrong side!

The *Telegraph* suggests that the crank might move "when an animal was looking round or driving away a fly; and then the whole thing must be done over again." No, sir. Just pull out a spring key and bolt, and get in the struggler in a hurry.

The cut in the *Farmer* could hardly represent the whole plan. The rope might be brought down behind the cows and attached to a crank or lever. Now the *Telegraph* says, "the cattle in a day or two thrust their heads through as freely as they enter their stalls." Very good; then why not fasten all at once? The *Telegraph* says curiosity or a fly may keep some out. I think a man behind the cattle with an alder might counteract any opposition of that kind. It would be better to feed the cattle before driving in, and they would not hesitate about going to their places.

The *Telegraph* thinks the letting so many loose at once would be perilous in the extreme. With a proper number of wide, sliding doors, there can be no danger.

The *Telegraph* concludes his article by a warm approval of the stanchion method, but bids his readers beware of the "ropes, cranks, pulleys, &c., recommended in the east." W. D. B.

Concord, Mass., April 21, 1852.

For the New England Farmer.

CISTERNS VS. WELLS.

Mr. Editor:—I have seen it stated, where or by whom I do not now recollect, that the water which annually falls from the various out-buildings of the farm was sufficient to supply the wants of the ordinary amount of stock, during the season. And it struck me quite forcibly that such an amount of water, judiciously preserved, together with an apparatus properly and systematically arranged, might be made to supply the place of a well at much less expense and decidedly superior in point of convenience. If you or any of the readers of the *Farmer*, who have had any experience in this method, will be pleased to report progress, or give us a system of their operations, they will certainly confer a favor.

Yours, &c. R. H. Howard.

Burlington, March 18, 1852.

A Rapid Growth.—It has been stated to us that Mr. Sylvester Newton, of Southboro', Mass., grafted an apple tree in 1848, and in 1850 he gathered from those grafts *nine barrels* of good marketable apples, of the Baldwin variety! Well, we are glad of it,—but if we get them at that rate in four or five years after setting the scions, we think we do better than most of our neighbors.

For the New England Farmer.

THE HISTORY OF THE APPLE TREE.

BY S. P. FOWLER.

[concluded.]

The subject of heading down old decayed apple trees, and renovating such as are hastening to decay, although an important one to many cultivators, has been but seldom mentioned in modern fruit books. It is to the old writers, who wrote forty or fifty years since, that we must look chiefly for information upon this subject. It was by Mr. Forsyth, an English gardener, that we were made acquainted with a method of renovating diseased and decayed fruit trees, in a "Treatise on the culture and management of Fruit Trees," published by William Cobbett in 1803, being the first American edition.

Peter W. Yates, Esq., of Albany, wrote a communication, under date of Sept., 1803, containing his observations published in Forsyth's Treatise, wherein he says, I am fully satisfied that Mr. Forsyth's remedy affords a radical cure for diseases, defects and injuries, in all kinds of fruit trees; and that it may with equal success and advantage be applied in this climate, as in England. The chief value of this discovery was supposed to consist in a composition, which caused the wood to form rapidly, and soon to fill up and heal over large cavities, caused by rot, in old and neglected trees. It was likewise supposed to be equally efficacious, when applied to wounds, caused by grafting or the heading down of trees. When trees had become hollow, it was Mr. Forsyth's method to scoop out all the rotten, loose, and dead parts of the trunk, till he came to the solid wood, leaving the surface smooth; then cover the hollow with the composition. In a few years, if the cavity is not large, it would be filled with new wood. How much success, if any, in the renovation of old and decayed fruit trees in this country has attended the system of Mr. Forsyth, we are unable to say.

In the year 1802, Mr. Knight, the great English pomonologist, published some doubts relative to the efficacy of Mr. Forsyth's plaster, in renovating trees, where he observed of this quackery, [for which Forsyth was rewarded with a grant of money,] that it afforded a much better proof that he was paid for a discovery, than that he had made one. To make this composition of Mr. Forsyth's, take one bushel of fresh cow-dung, half a bushel of lime, rubbish of old buildings, half a bushel of wood-ashes, and a sixteenth part of a bushel of pit or river sand; the three last articles are to be sifted fine before they are mixed: then work them well together with a spade, and afterwards with a wooden beater, until the stuff is very smooth, like fine plaster used for the ceiling of rooms. Mr. Cobbett informs us, that Mr. Forsyth's method of curing diseased and decayed fruit and forest trees was, after a very minute examination, made by men of great skill, pronounced to be highly beneficial, both to individuals, and the public, and his Majesty, at the recommendation of both Houses of Parliament, granted him a reward of *four thousand pounds*. This treatise was translated into several of the European languages, and received the highest encomiums. In writing the History of the Apple Tree, we have thus noticed this once famous composition, which was probably one of the greatest humbugs [to use a word, not much used

in Forsyth's time,] ever found in the annals of horticulture.

Several years since, we used the plaster of Mr. Forsyth's, upon the wounds caused by pruning, and the stumps in two years were found to be rotten, where it had not been thrown off by the action of the frost. Paint, rosin, or gum, as a general thing, is better where it can be applied to cover the wounds upon trees, than alkaline plasters, which usually promote decay. We have before, in a previous article, written of the use of red or yellow ochre, made into a thick paint, to cover the wounds of trees. We have used it for several years, and like it much. Gum shellac, dissolved in alcohol, has been recommended by Mr. Downing. We have been informed by those persons who have used it, that they have found it beneficial, but difficult to keep from drying up. And its ingredients are not always easily to be obtained, particularly the alcohol, which we certainly do not regret. Whereas ochre and oil can be found at every paint shop, and usually at most country stores.

Trees that are old, and in a state of decay, can be rejuvenated by opening the ground around the trunk, and pruning the dead roots, if any are to be found, loosening the earth for the space of several feet, from the body of the tree, and digging into it some compost manure. Prune the tree carefully, being particular to remove every dead or diseased branch, and apply paint to the wounds, search the trunk, and large limbs for the canker, cutting out the diseased bark, and covering the bare wood with the ochre. If you discover cavities in the limbs or trunk, scoop out the rotten parts to the live wood, and fill up the hollow with cement, or mortar well made from coarse sand. The surface of the mortar, exposed to the weather, should be smoothed down hard, just filling the cavity, so that the growing lip of wood can easily form over it. Scrape all the moss and loose bark from the trunk and limbs, and apply the following composition or wash, made and used by Capt. J. S. Lovett, of Beverly, and recommended by him in Hovey's Magazine for the year 1850. I think it much better than any thing I have ever seen, as a wash for all kinds of trees. Capt. Lovett says:—I use a large vessel, say a tub, made by sawing a molasses hogshead in two, at the bung, which will hold about seventy gallons; in this tub I put a wheelbarrow load of yellow clay, and an equal quantity of fresh cow-manure, covering it with water. After soaking and mixing a day or two, I add half a bushel wood ashes, one pound of sulphur, six or eight pounds of soft soap, and mix well together; then slake half a peck of lime, and add to the above, using water sufficient to make the whole about the consistency of thin cream, which will nearly fill the tub; mix well together for several days. This can be best applied to the trees with a white-wash brush. When it is thought necessary to alter the tops of an old apple tree by grafting, it can be done, providing *it is sound, and its branches are healthy*. Should this be the case, it is best to begin by grafting about one-third of the top of the tree the first year, and the remaining two-thirds, composing the side branches, may be grafted in the two succeeding years. At the expiration of the third year, or second, if you choose, to impart more health and vigor to the tree, you may scrape the trunk and branches, and apply the wash, likewise open the ground around the tree, and apply some well rotted compost manure or ashes.

When the branches of an old apple tree are unfit to graft, they may be headed down in the manner described by Forsyth, and buds or grafts put into the new shoots or suckers. It would be well at the same time to impart vigor to the tree, by stimulating manures or ashes, and by scraping the trunk and branches and applying the wash. But as a general rule, we are inclined to the belief, that old and decrepid apple trees are hardly worth the time and labor necessary to be spent upon them, to make them fruitful. S. P. F.

Danvers, March 1, 1852.

Remarks.—This number closes the series of admirable papers upon the "*History of the Apple Tree.*" Mr. Fowler has written them in a plain, strong style, with a spice of quaintness in his extracts and allusions to the old writers, which, added to their other merits, has rendered them very popular. They have been copied into other journals, and will prove valuable papers of reference.

We take this opportunity to thank the writer for his contributions, and to express a hope that his pen will not long remain idle.

BONE MANURE.

Bones, though of comparatively recent introduction as a manure, stand at the head of all miscellaneous articles used for this purpose. The improved machinery for preparing them has brought them into extensive use in Europe. In England it has been demonstrated that on dry sands, limestone, chalk, light loams, and peat, bones are a very valuable manure. That they may be applied to grass with great effect. That on arable lands, they may be laid on fallow for turnips, or used for any of the subsequent crops. That the best method of using them, when broadcast, is previously to mix them up in a compost with earth, dung, or other manures, and let them lie and ferment. That if used alone, they may either be drilled with the seed, or sown broadcast. That bones which have undergone the process of fermentation are decidedly superior in their immediate effects to those who have not done so. That the quantity should be about 20 bushels of dust, or 40 bushels of large, increasing the quantity if the land be impoverished. —*N. Y. Farmer and Mechanic.*

Fried Potatoes.—*A secret worth knowing.*—I guess no Yankee ever forgot three dishes somewhat peculiar to his native land; these are codfish and potatoes, baked beans, and fried potatoes; and I also guess he never has found them, particularly the last, possessing that delicious richness which greeted his boyhood's palate. Natives of other lands don't know how to fry potatoes; yet 'tis an easy matter. There is but one secret. After you have washed, peeled and sliced them nicely, quite thin, put two quarts of potatoes into two quarts of hot lard—not merely melted, but hot, very hot, just as hot as it can be made without burning. That is the secret. Fresh fish should be cooked in the same way. Ditto doughnuts. It is "a secret worth knowing."—*The Plow.*

TRANSACTIONS OF THE N. Y. STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

In the address of Professor Norton, of Yale College, before the Seneca County Agricultural Society, published in the "Transactions of the N. Y. State Agricultural Society," for the year 1850, we noticed at our first reading some weeks since, several errors, which it seemed to us important to have corrected. Professor Norton is a gentleman of learning, and deservedly high reputation. His contributions to the advancement of scientific agriculture, and the interest he constantly manifests in the *good cause* in which we labor, entitle him to our respect. And it is *because* the results of Prof. Norton's researches upon the subject of Agricultural chemistry are generally received without examination or question, that we have thought it proper to call attention to the mistakes which we have observed. The subject of analysis of soils, and of the grain, or other product desired, as a means of directing our farming operations, is attracting much attention.

We have a great curiosity to look into nature's laboratory, and see how she combines her various elements to form the plant and flower and seed. We have become at last pretty well satisfied that even nature works by *means*, and cannot form a grain of wheat without making use of already existing particles of matter in its production.

The address of Prof. Norton is upon the cultivation of wheat in New York, and especially on the analysis of wheat soils, and of the grain and other straw of wheat, with a view to a more intelligent cultivation.

Having given a table showing the "Composition of the Grain and Straw of Wheat," and another "Table to illustrate the Composition of Wheat Soils," he proceeds to show, by mathematical calculation, in how long a time the soil would be exhausted of some of the essential elements of wheat.

We first give his own language from the printed report, page 593.

"It is estimated that the weight of soil over an acre, taking it at ten inches deep, varies little from one thousand tons. In soil No. 2, there is about one-fourth pound of phosphoric acid in every one hundred pounds of soil; this would give five pounds in each ton, and consequently, two and a half tons to the acre, a very great quantity.

"One hundred pounds of wheat, it will be remembered, contain about two pounds of ash; forty bushels of wheat on the acre, weighing sixty pounds per bushel, would be two thousand four hundred pounds, and this would contain *one hundred and twenty pounds* of ash; one-half or *sixty pounds* of this, would be phosphoric acid. Supposing the grain to be sold off, and the straw only, or its equivalent, returned as manure, it would take between *eighty and ninety years* of unintermitted cropping to exhaust this soil."

According to our arithmetic, the latter part of the above paragraph should be as follows:—

One hundred pounds of wheat, it will be remembered, contain about two pounds of ash; forty bushels of wheat on the acre weighing sixty pounds per bushel, would be two thousand four hundred pounds, and this would contain *forty-eight pounds* of ash; one-half or twenty-four pounds of this, would be phosphoric acid. Supposing the grain to be sold off, and the straw only, or its equivalent, returned as manure, it would take *two hundred and eight and one-third years*, of unintermitted cropping to exhaust the soil.

The same error is found at page 599, where it is said, "Forty bushels of wheat, it will be recollected, carry off about *sixty pounds* of phosphoric acid." It should be *twenty-four pounds*.

On the former page, 593, we have it printed thus—"Even of chlorine, which is but *one-half of a pound* in every hundred, or only *one pound in a ton*, there would therefore be one thousand pounds or half a ton in an acre." Instead of "one-half of a pound in every hundred," it should be, as we understand it, *one-twentieth of a pound* in every hundred.

The next paragraph in the same page is as follows:—

"Of potash and soda, there are in the second soil about *three and a quarter* pounds in one hundred, or *sixty-five* pounds in one ton, amounting to *thirty-two and a half tons* per acre."

By reference to *Table* 2 on the opposite page it will be seen that in the "second soil" referred to by Mr. Norton, the proportion of potash is set down at 2.80, and the soda at 1.44, equal to 4.24, or *four and a quarter* pounds in one hundred, or *eighty-five* pounds in a ton, or *forty-two* and a half tons per acre.

In no spirit of cavilling or fault-finding, do we call attention to this matter, but we do it, because the adoption of these calculations as correct might lead to further errors, almost interminable. It is, in many soils, of vital consequence, whether a crop of wheat takes 24 or 60 pounds of phosphoric acid from each acre, although it is to be observed, that every error which has been suggested, weakened, instead of strengthening the learned Professor's argument! His positions would have been stronger had his calculations been accurate.

We commend the whole address to our readers, for its plain and practical treatment of a difficult though interesting branch of agricultural knowledge.

A mistake or two in his *ciphering*, by no means affects Prof, Norton's high claims to our respect and confidence. It would be strange, were there not a little chaff in so much good wheat. It is an old saying, that "the best sometimes err," and the present instance only illustrates its truth.

A Good Hint. — Always do as the sun does—look at the bright side of every thing; it is just as cheap, and three times as good for digestion.

For the New England Farmer.

WHAT SAVES THE POTATOES?

Mr. Editor :—In your last paper, the *New England Farmer*, I notice a communication from Mr. L. Varney, of Sandwich, N. H., relative to the "potato rot," with some remarks and comments upon the theory of Mr. T. D. Morrison, of the same State, and of his claim for the $10,000 reward offered by this State. Also some of his experience testing the theories of Mr. Morrison and some others who claim to be equally *wise* in the matter. Having read Mr. Varney's article, and coinciding somewhat in his views, the idea occurred to me that I would like to furnish the public with a *little* experience and observation of *mine* upon the same subject, providing the editor were willing. The experience and observation which I wish to relate took place about three years ago. That being the case, I may not have the particulars so distinctly in my mind as to relate them with that degree of accuracy which some others have done. Three years ago I planted about two acres of potatoes, quite early, which yielded a tolerable fair crop, and which were generally free from rot, though not quite, although there were *some salt, lime and charcoal dust* mixed with the manure. There was *no corn* planted with them, but some grew along side of them. They were manured in the hill, and planted in the usual manner of planting. I also planted the same season, about one-third of an acre of late ones after the same manner, a part of which grew in the *shade* of some apple trees, which on digging, I found to be very much affected with the rot. As near as I can remember, there was but *one* hill in the whole piece *either in or out of the shade* that produced perfectly sound ones, and that one hill yielded about a dozen of large clear white Chenangoes, and as I gathered them into my basket, the idea struck me that there must be some apparent cause for so obvious an exception. I therefore thought I would examine and see if I could discover what it was. So striking my hoe a little deeper into the soil, I dug out a piece of an old *boot* or a *shoe*, I don't recollect which, and I don't suppose it would make any difference which. Now whether this old piece of a boot or shoe, which was buried beneath that *good* hill of potatoes, had anything to do with keeping off the rot, and preserving them in a sound state is more than I *know*. I shall therefore leave it for *more* learned and scientific in such investigations to determine. But would advise them, that if they should come to the decision, that scraps of old boots and shoes, planted in a potato field is a remedy against the *rot* that they be *careful how* they recommend them and do it with

Caution.

Newton Centre, April 12, 1852.

MORE SMILING.

It is noticeable that our agricultural papers, especially the later ones, are discarding the over-did gravity and dulness of old, thought necessary, and manage to say a cheerful word now and then, or to throw in a breath of humor, "or to smile a smile ;" as though the double muscles with which people do their laughing were made for something. We never could see why it was necessary that works on agriculture should be made as dull as possible. Why not jump a jump once in a while ; why not cachinnate? All that is said will be just as true and the boys and girls will like it a good deal better, and be much more likely to begin to think that farming is not of necessity the stupidest of business. This has always been our notion and when a good idea or a little turn of humor come along we did not turn out for it We are glad to see others coming to like conclusion. Here is the new *New England Farmer*, for instance, which actually perpetrates a joke occasionally—a thing which would have sunk the *old* ones. We begin to believe the song when it talks about "a good time co ming."—*Prairie Farmer*.

For the New England Farmer.

SLAVERING IN HORSES.

Dear Sir :—A year or more ago, I answered in the columns of the "*Cultivator*" a letter, (the author I do not remember,) setting forth that slavering was caused by cobwebs. I stated that I was convinced that *lobelia* was the principal, if not the sole cause. After so much controversy, and so much diversity of opinion as to its cause, I resolved to make some further experiments, intending to give the result to the public. I have *always been a friend* to the horse, and have, to some extent, studied his *diseases*. It has been contended that slavers was the effect of eating white clover, sorrel, cobwebs, &c., &c. I think my experience will prove that *some* of the above are not the cause of slavers.

1. Having a pasture almost entirely *covered* with white clover, I confined two horses in it for about ten days, when the slavering season commenced; neither of which showed any *signs* of slavering.

2. One horse was then put into a pasture, in which was considerable *lobelia;* the other into a pasture in which I have never been able to find any *lobelia;* the feed being red clover of first year's growth, but which, like too much of our clover, was well sprinkled with *sorrel*. After remaining in these enclosures about two weeks, the horse in the pasture of red clover and sorrel, showed no signs of slavering. The horse in the pasture where was plenty of lobelia, commenced slavering within four days after being turned into the pasture, and continued so to do until he was taken from the pasture and put to *dry food*. The 2d horse was then put into the pasture where the first one slavered, and in 48 hours began to slaver. Although these experiments were satisfactory to me, yet I resolved to experiment further. I gathered a quantity of lobelia about the time both horses were free from the disease, and mixed with good hay, with which I fed one horse, and fed the other with hay from the same *mow* without adding lobelia. They were fed in this way about a week. The one fed with the mixture slavered a good deal, while the other did not slaver any. I then collected and dried a quantity of lobelia, with which I have tried the same experiment upon different horses, with like results. I have also mixed lobelia with hay, and fed to a cow, the effect of which was, that she *druled*, and soon refused to eat the hay. I presume, had she continued to eat, it would have caused her to vomit. I should have stated that when lobelia was fed with hay to the horse, it was cut and mixed with provender.

From these and other experiments, I am con-

vinced that *lobelia is the principal cause* of slavers in horses. I have frequently used it as a medicine for the horse, with a view to cause *sickness*, and *successfully*; and believe it will produce the same feeling in the horse, as in man; and if the horse *could* vomit, lobelia would undoubtedly cause him to do so, instead of slaver.

I do not contend that lobelia is the *only* thing which will cause slavers; but I *do* contend, that I can produce slavers with lobelia, and I also contend that no horse can be made to slaver with either white clover, sorrel, or *cobwebs*.

As the season for slavers is fast approaching, I wish some of your readers would make experiments, and give the result to the public.

I have some cherry trees of thrifty growth, raised from the stone, which, for 6 or 8 years, have not failed to blossom very full, but never bear more than 4 or 5 quarts each. The cherries are large ox heart, of a beautiful flavor. Will you or some of your readers tell me how I can make them "*bear?*" PLOWBOY.

New Marlboro', Mass.

REMARKS.—"Plowboy" is entitled to thanks from the community for his patient and thorough experiments with the horses. Perhaps we might suggest a remedy for the cherry trees, if we could see how they are situated. Trees frequently fail to produce fruit because their roots cannot find the particular aliment which they like. From some cause they cannot expand themselves, or cold spring water flows in among them.

For the New England Farmer.

SHAVINGS—TAN—HORNS—BONES.

MR. BROWN:—Dear Sir,—Having a little patch of "terra firma," which I call my own, and which I intend to improve to the best advantage, as my means will permit, I have been very much interested in your valuable paper; (by the way the best agricultural paper I have ever read.) As I have seen you have been very willing to help others, I supposed you might help me; if you will, by answering the following questions, I shall be much obliged to you.

(*a.*) Are shavings and saw dust worth saving to put on any kind of land; wet land, for instance?

(*b.*) Is old tan, that which has turned black by being heaped together, worth anything for making compost?

(*c.*) Would old horns, skirts of hides, old lime, &c., be good for making compost? and would sulphuric acid decompose such a heterogeneous mass?

(*d.*) What are bones worth per ton or cord, for making manure with sulphuric acid?

If you or some of your numerous correspondents will answer the above, you will greatly oblige a young friend and subscriber.

Sanborntown, 1852.

REMARKS.—(*a.*) They are both excellent for mulching trees, either old or young, and in rotting, enrich the soil as well as keep it light and porous. If you have them in large quantities, it would be very well to throw into heaps and mix with quick lime.

(*b.*) The old tan is worth but little—it is about as profitable on the highway as anywhere; it makes a capital country road.

(*c.*) Certainly, very good; you will find directions on this point by reference to former articles in the *Farmer*.

(*d.*) Whole bones sell for about ten or twelve dollars a ton, varying according to circumstances. The ground dry bone sells for $2,25 per barrel of from 275 to 300 pounds to the barrel.

We answer the questions of our "young friend" with a great deal of pleasure, and only regret that they were not attended to sooner.

For the New England Farmer.

CULTURE OF FORESTS.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—Having recommended, in a former communication, the extension of forests, there may be some obligation upon me to impart aid in the prosecution of the important work, as far as the knowledge possessed can avail. This knowledge is very limited, and drawn almost exclusively from experience. Treatises on the subject are nearly all of European origin, and recommend processes requiring more labor than the objects in view would justify in this country. Transplanting from seed beds is the general, if not the universal practice in Europe. This seems to be attended with needless expense, excepting where it is desired to have the trees placed in regular order. Some kinds of trees we can take from existing forests, and transplant without much greater expense than must be incurred in gathering and sowing the seed. Young white pines abound in many forests; these may be carefully taken up and transplanted at any time from the middle of May to the last of July, and when the work is well done, will generally live and sometimes grow nearly as well as seedlings. The smaller the trees when taken up, the greater will be the probability of success. The pitch pine transplanted will sometimes live, but we have never seen it grow well. The birch generally lives after transplanting, but does not grow as well as from the seed. And this is supposed true of most of the deciduous forest trees; the transplanting of them beyond purposes of ornament should not be much encouraged. They can be easier raised from the seed and will grow more shapely.

Seed of the locust should be planted in May, soaked in scalding water, it will vegetate very soon. The young plants should be carefully cultivated the first year, after which they will grow rapidly, if the worms do not attack them, but this so often happens, as greatly to discourage the propagation of these trees, which otherwise would be in higher estimation than almost any others pertaining to the forest.

The spring is a favorable season for planting forest seeds generally, but the difficulty attending the preservation of several kinds in a good state through the winter, induces fall planting as preferable. Acorns and chestnuts cannot be kept in such a state; they will vegetate in the spring without great care and considerable labor. The seed of pine might keep well in the cones, but as this will bear only a very light covering, it is best to sow it on the surface in the fall, and the action of the

frost will cover it sufficiently. The same is true of birch seed; it is often entirely lost under the operation of the harrow; it is best to leave it on the surface where nature casts it, and in the same season of the year. After sowing, birch and pine require no other attention beside keeping cattle from the ground. Young oaks should be cultivated several years, and when this is omitted, the roots may be extended and better trees produced by cutting them all close to the ground in the spring, after they are three years old, but as several sprouts will grow from each stump, some labor will afterwards be required in thinning.

Various other forest trees can be raised from the seed, but the experience of the writer does not qualify him to offer any remarks on the manner in which it can best be done. M. A.

Pembroke, March 26, 1852.

CONCORD FARMER'S CLUB.

Some of the farmers of the good old town of Concord, in this commonwealth, held stated meetings during the past winter for the discussion of any and all matters pertaining to their vocation. We had the good fortune to attend most of their meetings, and have been as much interested and instructed there as at any similar meetings we have ever attended. There may be some towns in Middlesex where here and there a single farm may be found surpassing in value and amount of productions, more than any single farm in the town of Concord; but take it as a whole, we doubt if many towns can be found where there are so many thrifty, intelligent and independent farmers as in this old town, famous for its revolutionary and interesting historical incidents.

The meetings of the farmer's club indicate a spirit of inquiry and progress, and will lead to a more systematic and thorough cultivation of the soil, and consequently to a larger profit.

We copy the annexed account of the last meeting of the club from the *Middlesex Freeman*, published at Concord, and intend to give hereafter an occasional sketch of their meetings, as published in that paper.

CONCORD FARMER'S CLUB.

The closing meeting of the club for the season, took place at the Middlesex Hotel, on Saturday evening, April 24. Nearly every member, accompanied by one or more ladies, was present, and also several invited guests.

The company assembled in the spacious parlors of the hotel, and enjoyed a social hour in free conversation, after which several short and appropriate addresses were made, which occupied the time until supper was announced. Precisely at 9 o'clock, the company sat down to the tables, where all entered with alacrity into an intimate and pleasant acquaintance with the rich gifts of Ceres and Pomona. The president then made a brief address, which was followed by a set of regular toasts, but interspersed with voluntary sentiments, stories, songs, and brief addresses. The occasion was altogether a most happy one. The ladies were animated and beautiful, the gentlemen gracious, but not "unco glorious," the supper a nonpareil, the toasts sharp as a thistle, or as light as the thistle's down, and the songs excellent.

The committee had made the most perfect arrangements, so that everything came off precisely at the right time, without delay or confusion. The only thing to be regretted is that your reporter was not present.

Such were the closing ceremonies of the Farmer's Club. The meetings through the winter have been well attended, and the interest in them continually increased, and cannot have failed to prove beneficial in many respects.

Truly yours, A FARMER.

Concord, April 26, 1852.

THE POOR MAN'S BOOK.

BY GEO. W. BUNGAY.

The winds have blown the smoke away—
Cold is the forge and hushed the mill;
The "toil-worn cotter" rests to-day—
Traffic is mute and Labor still.

The unharnessed horse feeds on the green,
The laboring ox rests in the shade;
A holy calm pervades the scene,
And beauty smiles from hill and glade.

The modest flowers that light the clod,
Like drops of sunshine from the sky,
Bow their sweet heads and worship God,
And send their fragrant praise on high.

Beneath his fig-tree and his vine,
Beside the lowly cottage door,
The poor man reads the precious line
Of promise to the humble poor.

The Bible is the poor man's law,
A blessed boon to mortals given;
A ladder such as Jacob saw,
With angels coming down from heaven.

N. Y. Tribune.

CLEANLINESS FOR PLANTS.

"If as much washing were bestowed, in London," says Dr. Lindley, "upon a pot plant as upon a lap-dog, the one would remain in as good condition as the other. The reasons are obvious. Plants breathe by their leaves; and if their surface is clogged by dirt, of whatever kind, their breathing is impeded or prevented. Plants perspire by their leaves; and dirt prevents their perspiration. Plants feed by their leaves; and dirt prevents their feeding. So that breathing, perspiration, and food, are fatally interrupted by the accumulation of foreign matters upon leaves. Let any one, after reading this, cast an eye upon the state of plants in sitting rooms or well-kept green-houses; let them draw a white handkerchief over the surface of such plants, or a piece of smooth white leather, if they desire to know how far they are from being as clean as their nature requires."—*Hovey's Magazine.*

GRASS UNDER TREES.—By sowing nitrate of soda in small quantities in showery weather, under trees, a most beautiful verdure will be obtained. I have used it under beech trees in my grounds, and the grass always looks green. Having succeeded so well on a small scale, I have now sown nitrate of soda among the long grass in the plantations, which cattle could never eat. I now find that the herbage is preferred to the other parts of the field.

For the New England Farmer.

WHY HONEY BEES DIE.

BY JOHN M. WEEKS.

Mr. Editor:—I observed in your March number of the present volume, some inquiry by a subscriber for the cause of the death of bees in the winter, at the same time leaving a plenty of honey in the hive. Now as Mr. Stockwell has answered the interrogatories of "Subscriber" so well, it perhaps seems hardly needful that the subject should be further discussed; but it appears to me that the whole ground is not covered by Mr. Stockwell's answer. A subscriber asks the "cause of death." Mr. S. assures in substance "depopulation, want of insect heat to expel the frost caused by their vapor." Now if I understand "Subscriber," it is to learn the whole cause, the answers, depopulation &c., having been made by Mr. Stockwell, the next important inquiry is, what is the *cause of depopulation?* I answer to wit: 1st, barrenness of the queen in the months of August and September.

The population of the hive in the winter is composed chiefly of bees that are hatched in those two months and in the early part of October when the season is favorable; very few, if any of the bees that are born before the middle of July, live to see the end of November; hence, we must depend much on the good bee season for raising the young in August and September, in order to supply the hive with a sufficient number of people to keep up the insect heat, so as to keep the honey warm and nutritive and enable the bees to move when the honey is exhausted where they first locate at the commencement of cold weather.

Every close observer of bees must have noticed that second and third swarms out of a hive the same season, especially when standing near other hives, gradually leave and join their neighbors, and the moths finish up what they have left behind. (*Most bee owners think the moths destroyed them, which is a great mistake.*) The cause of these desertions of the hive is usually barreness of the queen. She is not often twenty-four hours from the cradle before she stands at the head of the family and leads out a swarm, and is incapable of laying eggs until she is at least eight days old. Now as the bees must remain at least seven days in their new tenement before they are sure of propagating their species, and add to their already diminishing numbers, they gradually leave until all are gone into the hives of their nearest neighbors; leaving at the same time what little they have done, to the merciless grasp of their enemies.

It is believed the queen does not often become barren in August and September, though eggs are not laid by them at this season of the year in so great quantity as in the early months of the season. But there is another cause of depopulation of the hive; it is this: There is some inefficiency in the pollen, or bee bread that is collected by the bees to feed the young in August and September, and the larva or chrysalis die in their cells after they are covered over by the bees, and these are not removed, and the hive dwindles away, and in the course of a year or two die out for want of animal heat in winter, or an intolerable stench caused by this *rot* in summer. I published some thoughts on this subject in the *N. E. Farmer*, Vol. I., No. 1, several years since, requesting others, lovers of the apiary to communicate on the same subject; but I have seen nothing published since, touching this point. I then attributed it to atmospheric influence, or the same cause that produced rot in potatoes. I have seen nothing to alter my opinions there expressed, unless it may be the bees, for want of blossoms in good and healthful plants, are compelled to take the pollen from poisonous plants in the swamps to feed the young at the season referred to.

It has been supposed that the bee moth was one of the chief causes of the depopulation and destruction of the hive. I thought so for a great many years, and have published much on the subject. I am not disposed to exonerate this pest to the apiary, but would lay no more to his charge than he merits. Who ever saw a healthful, well-populated hive of bees infested and injured by moths? I never did! Depopulation, or other casualties are always first, and the moths are always secondary, and finish up the whole as the worms do the carcass of animals after the principle of life is destroyed, though they are more greedy and commence earlier, often and usually before the life of the hive is entirely extinct. But there are many other causes of depopulation of the hive. Bees have a great many admirers. Toads, frogs, water-insects, as for instance, the *spindles*, and a great variety of birds that are constantly swallowing them by dozens. I have taken about forty bees from the stomach of a single toad at one time. I have seen five toads and frogs lurking around a single bee-hive in the edge of the evening ready to take the bees as they came in heavy laden from the fields, where they chanced to drop down about the hive, or stopped to rest a moment before they entered their tenements; the same evening, in walking around my apiary with a candle in my hand, I counted about twenty of these reptiles, or bee eaters. But the most prolific of all causes is occasioned by allowing hives of bees to stand too near each other during their working season; bees standing close by each other were so liable to blunder into the wrong door, that it soon becomes a matter of indifference with them which hive they enter, and no hive will fight a bee that comes laden with honey and pollen and offers to make a deposit. Thus the contiguous hives soon acquire the same scent, and the bees of each mingle chiefly as one swarm.

Bees do the best to stand from one to three or four rods apart during the working season, but should by no means be moved a single foot after they are settled in work. Let all the hives be carried into a perfectly dark room, with no bottom boards on the hives, suspend them so as to let all accumulations of filth and dead bees drop from the hive during winter, and set every stock precisely where it stood the year previous, by the middle of March in Mass., a little later in Vermont, as the climate indicates. But the length of this article reminds me that it is time to lay down my pen. Respectfully yours, J. M. W.

West Farm, near Middlebury, Vt., March, 1852.

Amount of Food Required by Animals.—Of hay, an ox requires two per cent. a day of his live weight. That is, if the ox weighs 2000 lbs., he requires 40 lbs. of hay. If he is working, he will take two and a half per cent. A milch cow should have three per cent. of her weight, as she is proportionably lighter than the ox, and part of

the substance of her food goes to form milk. A fatting ox may be fed five per cent. at first, four and a half per cent. when half fat, and afterwards four per cent. This is independent of other food. A grown sheep will take three and a third per cent. of its weight in hay, to keep in good store condition. Animals in a growing state require most food, and it is very poor economy to stint them.—*The Plow.*

A NEW FARM SCHOOL.

If our good old commonwealth does not plume her wings a little, she will lose the glory of establishing the first *Farm School* within her borders. We have recently learned that Dr. CHARLES SIEDHOF, a gentleman from Germany, and in 1846 the Principal of a boarding school for boys, at Newton Centre, has established a school for boys at Lancaster, in this State. The farm contains 112 acres of wood, meadow, pasture and tillage land, and buildings fitted for the convenience and comfort of the pupils, both as regards study and indoor employments—including a large workshop, with lathes and a great variety of tools.

The course of instruction includes the English, Latin and Greek languages, mathematics, physics, chemistry, natural history and the German language.

Also instruction in some mechanical operations, such as turning in wood and metal, grinding optical glasses, making philosophical instruments, and the common mechanical work of the farm.

Music is also taught on various instruments; drawing, painting and the French and Italian languages, are also taught.

This school is located in the beautiful town of Lancaster, in this State; the town is healthy, being watered by the Nashua river, is pleasantly diversified by hills and sweeping vales, and contains an intelligent and cultivated population. From the references on Dr. SIEDHOF's card, we can entertain no doubt of his fitness for the post he has assumed, both as to character and qualifications.

For the New England Farmer.

BORERS.

A SURE PREVENTION AGAINST THEIR INJURING TREES.

Take a sheet of common brown paper and pass it round the tree quite down to the ground; this must be done by the 15th or 20th of June, before the egg is deposited; draw up a little earth so the insect cannot deposit the eggs below the paper, and if the tree is rough, scrape off the rough bark. No danger of injuring the tree, as in good time the paper will drop off of itself. I have used this prevention for years, and I have never known it to fail to keep the borer from injuring the tree. One foot width of paper is sufficient.

Grafton, April 22, 1852. JOSEPH LELAND.

☞ That calm and elegant satisfaction which the vulgar call melancholy, is the true and proper delight of men of knowledge and virtue.

For the New England Farmer.

ON PEARS.

BY AN AMATEUR.

Among the many excellent pears now fruited and before the public, the *Bartlett*, by general consent, seems to take the highest stand. There may be a few others that surpass it in quality; but considering its many good points, its early and full bearing, its large size and beautiful appearance, together with the good price it brings in the market, it is justly a favorite, not only with the lovers of excellent fruit, but also with the cultivators. Amidst the competition of other pears, in autumn, the Bartlett readily brings in Boston, from 50 cents to $2 per dozen. The little Seckel, (said to be the best pear in the world,) surpasses it in richness and sweetness, the Belle Lucrative equals it, and we think a well-ripened Flemish Beauty possesses a little more character. But, then, if we except the last, they are not so large, and none of them so handsome. Good on pear or quince.

The *Louise Bon de Jersey* is taking a high stand in pear culture. It comes in directly after the Bartlett, is large, handsome, and possesses a high vinous flavor. When fully ripened it is of a russety yellow, with a slight blush and numerous gray dots. Not being so well known as the Bartlett, it may fall a little short of it in price. It is a hardy and vigorous grower on quince or pear roots, and a good bearer.

The *Duchesse d'Angouleme* is a noble foreign pear, and frequently grows to an uncommon size. The Mass. Horticultural Society have a specimen in preservation that weighs 24 ounces! This fruit is so rare and choice, that but comparatively few persons have tasted it in this country. Very difficult to ripen, even on the quince, and in New England, supposed to be worthless on the pear stock. The tree is a luxuriant grower, and good specimens of the fruit are fine in quality. November and December.

The *Flemish Beauty* is one of the most promising of foreign pears. (See engraving *N. E. F.*, volume I., page 9.) Mr. C. M. Hovey says that he thinks it will prove to be the true Beurre Spence, which Dr. Van Mons thought was the best pear he ever raised. Should a person not be so fortunate as to get hold of one from any other source, by watching the sale of choice fruit in the market in autumn, he may be able to procure one by paying five or six cents! The fruit is large, turbinate, yellowish green, with some russet; flesh coarse, white, very rich and juicy. Having eaten some good specimens last autumn, I was almost tempted to call it a monstrous Seckel. I had heard it much praised, but it surpassed my expectations. This fruit is valuable over most foreign varieties, as it promises to do tolerably well in the orchard. Grows well on the pear or quince. Should be picked early. Among the many pears exhibited last fall at Salem, this pear outshone all.

Winter Nelis.—This is a pear of medium size, said to be "A No. 1." It is sweet and juicy, and in eating in the fall and winter.

Beurre d'Aremberg is in many respects like the Winter Nelis, but rather more vinous in flavor. They both deserve extensive cultivation.

Glout Morceau is an excellent sweet winter pear, and as the trees advance they ripen their fruit well. It is rather above the medium size,

very smooth and green till fully ripened, when it assumes a most beautiful and clear straw color. These three last named varieties are the best table winter pears.

The *Vicar of Winkfield* is extensively cultivated, for a new pear, but is not first rate in quality. Yet it is large, handsome, a great bearer, holds to the tree well, and is a late keeper. It is therefore profitable. We saw some of the most beautiful specimens in this city this spring, picked from a dwarf tree, that were selling from 20 to 50 cents each. The shape of this pear is long and symmetrical, of a smooth greenish yellow, frequently with a beautiful blush. Excellent for cooking, sometimes fair for the table—more especially when pears are scarce.

Beurre Diel is a large autumn pear; turburate, russety yellow, coarse, melting and sugary, when brought to perfection. Needs a warm location—showy and sells well in market.

The *Belle Lucrative* has received high commendations since its introduction into this country, and is said to have but few equals. The fruit is of medical size, turbinate, pale yellowish green, rather rough; flesh white, fine, sweet and excellent. A vigorous grower and good bearer on quince or pear. Requires a warm sandy loam. Sept. and Oct. (See engraving, vol. I. page 361.

Fulton.—This is an American pear, raised in Maine, and one of the best and most beautiful of small fall pears—a little gem, which occupies the same place among pears that the brilliant Fameuse does among the apples. It is plump, uniformly of cinnamon color, flesh white, juicy and rich. It grows fair is a prodigious bearer, matures well, and is admirably fitted for orchard culture. Last autumn we saw a medium sized tree of this kind in the garden of the late Capt. Manning, of Salem, that was one brown mass of fruit.

The *Dix* is a rather large and excellent native pear, yellowish russet, with a blush, and keeps late; but very difficult to raise. As it bears late on the pear stock, the quince is preferable. Samuel Walker, Esq., of Roxbury, says it will yet be as popular as the Bartlett. The French cultivate this Boston pear, and send us their trees.

The *Bloodgood* is a fine, medial-sized early pear, (Aug. into Sept.) and is generally preferred to the Jargonelle by those who are acquainted with it.

The above-named pears I consider valuable in a large collection, and perhaps they embrace the best for a smaller collection. There are many other new varieties—both foreign and native—which promise well, and would deserve notice, if space permitted. Swan's Orange is extravagantly praised by C. M. Hovey, Esq.; and hardly a less encomium was bestowed upon the Van Mons Leon le Clerc by Mr. Walker, in 1847. But pears vary in different years, and so, perhaps, do men's tastes. That we have an excellent variety of them under cultivation no one can deny; nor can any one wish to increase the list; but, in the nature of things, it will be increased, while some of its number will be discarded.

Carrots.—We hope our farmers will not let the present season pass without putting in a quarter or half acre of the *Orange Carrot*. We know of no crop, occupying so small a space of the farm, or demanding so little of the labor of the cultivator, affording such valuable results, as that of the carrot. The seed can be had at most of our seed-stores.—*Germantown Telegraph.*

NUMBER OF PLANTS ON AN ACRE.

The following table shows the number of plants contained in an acre, planted at the several distances specified in the columns marked "feet apart." For example, an acre will contain 10,890 corn-hills two feet apart; 2,151 four and a half apart, &c. These numbers are obtained by dividing 43,560, the number of square feet in an acre, by the square of the number of feet the plants are distant from each other; thus—the square of 2 is 4, and 43,560 divided by 4 gives 10,890, as above. If the plants be set in an oblong form, as five feet by six apart, multiply the two distances together, and divide 43,560 by their product, for the answer. When setting out trees, farmers generally name the distance in yards. In this case, divide 4840, the square yards in an acre, by the square of distances apart, if they be equal, or by their product if they be unequal, and the quotient will be the number of trees in an acre. For example: at 7 yards apart, an acre contains 98 trees; for the square of 7 is 49, and 4840 divided by 49 gives 98, the nearest whole number. If the distances be 7 and 10, their product is 70, and 4840 divided by 70 gives 69 trees.—*Newbern Spectator.*

Feet apart.	No. plants.	Feet apart.	No. plants.	Feet apart.	No. plants	Feet apart.	No. plants.
1	43,560	1½	19,360	2	10,890	2½	6969
3	4840	3½	3556	4	2722	4½	2151
5	1742	5½	1440	6	1210	6½	1031
7	889	7½	774	8	680	8½	602
9	537	9½	482	10	435	10½	395
11	360	12	302	13	257	14	222
15	193	16	170	17	150	18	134
19	120	20	108	25	69	30	48
35	35	40	27	-	-	-	-

For the New England Farmer.

THE STRAWBERRY.

Messrs. Editors:—I have been a constant reader of your paper from the commencement of its publication in pamphlet form. As I have not seen much on the strawberry culture in its pages, I will write out some of my thoughts, and give you some details of my experience in strawberry culture.

Mr. Downing, in his book on fruit and fruit trees of America, says, it occasionally happens from carelessness, that only imperfect or half-sterile plants of a sort are cultivated in some neighborhood or in a whole county; and this arises from the fact that none but imperfect plants may have been received by a person ordering a new sort. In this case, either the sort may be rejected—perhaps the better course—or resort must be had to other plants, having stamens in abundance, to grow with it and fertilize it. Hence the fault found by many persons with the poorness and unproductiveness of some celebrated sorts, which we all knew were perfect in their blossoms at first; they have only received imperfect or sterile plants. He says, if a bed has become entirely sterile, it is better to destroy it, and get a fresh stock; and when this is obtained, to preserve it in a bearing state, by selecting the runners only from perfect plants.

Mr. Longworth says that a plant, be it staminate or pistillate, never changes its character by run-

ning, but preserves its primeval character. On this point my experience and observation lead to the same opinion. I do not think they deteriorate or change, or can change their character in any respect by running. The runner, or new plant, is a sucker which takes root on the surface of the ground. A sucker from the root of the plum will have the same characteristics and habits of the parent tree, and many of the damsons are propagated in this manner. It is the same with the pear. If we wish for new varieties, we must grow them from the seed.

I have been engaged for several years in the cultivation of strawberries for market. When I set a new bed of plants I make no choice between strong or weak plants. The first plant made is stronger because it is older, and will bear more fruit if it remains in the bed than the younger plants; if it is moved the fruit will be lost. Therefore I take the plants that grow in the spaces between the rows, which are generally the weakest plants. Each plant will produce some fruit the season it is set, which I do not gather. The next season new plants will spring from the seed which fell the previous season, if they are not taken out, the bed will be filled with seedlings, and these seedlings will in two or three years overrun and take possession of parts of the bed, especially of slow growing kinds, such as Hovey's seedling. The better way is to plant from beds but one year old, and if the plants set were true sorts, the runners will be the same.

When we order a new variety and do not get the true sort, I do not think the nurseryman intends to palm off spurious sorts. He may have never had it, although he might have paid for it, and got a seedling from it, or his bed might have seedlings grown in it. Some strawberries produce the same from seed with no perceptible difference—such as the Wood and Alpines, which are perfect in their sexual organization, while the Pines are generally deficient, in pistils or stamens, or have one or the other imperfectly developed.

North Danvers.

For the New England Farmer.

VEGETABLE POISONS.

Mr. Editor:—I saw in the last season's paper inquiries for what would cure vegetable poison, and cures prescribed; some of one thing and some of another, and one of buckwheat flour and vitriol, which is no doubt good. I feel disposed to give you a recipe of my own, which would have paid me eight years ago for five numbers of your paper in a single season. It is as follows:—First scratch as long as it feels good, then take wild salandine, (some call it jewel weed,) crush it and rub it on until it smarts well, then go to bed, and you will be ready for a good day's work the next day. It may need a few applications afterwards, but not many.

In another paper I saw mention made of tobacco-eating goats; if any one will call at my barn I will show them four tobacco-eating cows; throw them a tobacco plant, and they will leave good hay and eat the plant first.

Hartford, 1852. E. E. Persons.

Remarks.—If our correspondent's cows are in good health, they certainly do not manifest as much good taste and good sense as most cows do. We can see how most weeds and insects may be a blessing, but how any good, present, past, or to come, ever was or is to be found in tobacco, is past our comprehension.

For the New England Farmer.

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES.

Messrs. Editors:—For a few years past, and up to the present time, there has been much discussion in our Legislature, and also in many of the public prints, in regard to the utility and expediency of establishing an institution of the above character in this State. And if I am right your paper, the *New England Farmer* advocates the utility of the scheme. Now as I take the *Farmer*, I have an opportunity of seeing, and examining the arguments which the different advocates put forth in favor of the project. Yet I have utterly failed to see its feasibility. This may arise from a limited knowledge and a want of a better understanding of the subject. It is true, I profess to be nothing more than a humble individual in the world, and make no pretensions to the superior wisdom and judgment of those more exalted in life. But as I just observed, I have never been enabled to see, from all the arguments which I have seen advanced upon the subject. That the agricultural interest of the State would be benefited by the establishment of such an institution. At least, to that extent which it had ought to, considering the *outlay and expense which would accrue to the State in establishing such an institution and maintaining it.* And I believe if the *truth* were known, that the opinions of *nine-tenths* of the practical farmers of the State would be found to correspond with mine in considering such an institution entirely unnecessary, and would prove an utter failure, so far as it would tend to benefit their interest.

As regards the means and modes for obtaining an increased and necessary knowledge for the improvement and advancement in agricultural pursuits they already exist, and are afforded to a very great extent in the numerous books and periodicals devoted to that interest, and also in the numerous agricultural and horticultural Exhibitions of the day. These afford a better and cheaper means of instruction than a College would. The farmers, so far as I am acquainted, do not desire any institution of the kind. They would not try to avail themselves of any of its advantages. They consider that it would not be managed upon a system calculated to improve their economical modes of husbandry. They consider that it would amount to little else than a grand and expensive experiment, whereby the State would subject itself to a great and enormous expense with no corresponding return, excepting, confering upon a few men a rich and lucrative office, which they never were by experience calculated to fill, and an attempt to educate a few of the sons of certain families in an art which they are entirely unfitted by nature and habit to follow, and one which they *rarely* would adopt as an occupation.

I believe it to be one grand idea with the advocates of the scheme, that it will furnish an opportunity for the sons of some of our rich men, and also for some of the sons of those engaged in some of the more genteel pursuits in life, to obtain a knowledge of the art of farming.

Now *the art cannot be taught to any advantage, except by practice.* He who undertakes to teach it, ought to have acquired his qualifications by absolute practice: whether such an one would be selected to fill the Executive Chair *is very doubtful.* He ought to have a familiar acquaintance with most kinds of tools and implements, appertaining to the business, and also of the various kinds of farm work, which I fear, on a personal acquaintance, would have no very *fascinating attractions* to *some* of the young gentlemen who are now so eager to acquire their knowledge. My opinion in the inadequacy of the means proposed, rests upon their aversion to labor. Their previous lives unfit them for the severe tasks of the farmer. I judge partly from experience, but more from observation. The writer of these lines, has been engaged a part of his life in a pursuit much more favorable to his ease than that of his present occupation, with this consolation to comfort him, that it was *a little* more profitable. He also has been acquainted with many instances of young men from the country, who left their homes in early life to seek a fortune sufficient to enable them to return and purchase a farm. But after being engaged a few years in persuits less toilsome, and more profitable, they lost all inclination to return to their original occupation. The above are some of my reasons for believing that it would not be a *wise policy* for the State to try the experiment of an agricultural college.

Yours respectfully, W. A.

Newton Centre, 1852.

Remarks.—We will just say to our friend, that to be "exalted in life," is to be useful and virtuous. No wealth, connections, or position, can exalt a man; he must exalt himself. It seems to be a foregone conclusion with him that an agricultural College (he calls it) under the fostering care of the State will prove disastrous every way. We think something useful may be done, and have considerable confidence in the wisdom of old Massachusetts that she will do it right; but approve of moderate counsels and expenditures. Cambridge has distinguished herself, and her teachings are of no more consequence than those which agriculture require. Let us do something.

For the New England Farmer.

NORTHERN LIGHTS.

Gentlemen:—In one of your late papers I noticed a request for information respecting the nature of Northern Lights—Aurora Borealis. The credit due for the discovery of this belong to the Baron Von Reichenbachs,—a nobleman of Vienna. Some years since, he was engaged in making a series of experiments in Animal Magnetism, and found that strong magnets would produce deeper, quicker and more powerful effects, upon susceptible individuals, than any other combinations of matter. He found also that these magnets, when the rooms in which his observers were, were darkened, exhibited flames, and of course light. The light could be collected into a focus by means of a burning glass, and the flames being intercepted by any solid object, curled around it, like any other flame. This established in his mind, that light and flame are two different substances. But not satisfactorily to others, otherwise than this. That flame, being the visible, *and more often invisible combustion*, or change of matter from a more condensed to a less condensed state—light is the result, which is literally a material, more expansive, by chemical action. And that as the same thing can produce only its consequence, light in all instances is produced by combustion, or flame, and nothing else. Over one of these magnets, sufficiently powerful to raise ninety pounds, the observer saw a light auroral cloud, which emitted tufts or streaks of light, the same as we see the auroral arc in the north, previous, and during a display of this meteor. The argument is therefor, that magnetic light is the same, whether exhibited by a small or large magnet; whether it is at the north and south poles of the earth, or the same positive and negative poles of small bodies. I will add that there is a strong probability that present researches will establish the fact, that there exists an immense ocean of fluid, imponderable by any instrument yet invented, and yet of sufficient *capacity* to float the most ponderable bodies. This I know on the outside of it appears to be sufficiently absurd.

Very truly, your ob't servant,

J. C. G.

For the New England Farmer.

HEMLOCK.

(ABIES CANADENSIS.)

Mr. Editor:—I wish to call the attention of your readers to the beauty and importance of the hemlock. It is perfectly hardy, being found far to the north, even in the coldest portion of North America. It rises in the forest to the height, often, of sixty or seventy feet, and even more. It is often seen growing on rocky, exposed side hills, when few other things will flourish, as well as in better locations where it grows to greater perfection. When standing alone it forms a broader head, with less height. It will grow in dry or wet ground, though it does best where it is tolerably moist. In my opinion it is the most beautiful of *all evergreens;* and while collectors are zealously searching the remotest parts of the earth, and sending home the products of their labor—which often prove of little value—we strangely neglect to cultivate and prize the handsomest evergreen that can be found the world over; so far as my knowledge extends. Mr. Emerson, in his report on the trees and shrubs of Massachusetts, says; the young trees, by their numerous irregular branches clothed with foliage of a delicate green, form a rich mass of verdure; and when in the beginning of summer, each twig is terminated with a tuft of yellowish-green recent leaves, surmounting the darker green of the former year, the effect, as an object of beauty, is equalled by very few flowering shrubs, and far surpasses that produced by any other tree. It possesses a lightness and gracefulness—especially when the dark green mass is moved by the gentle breeze—that cannot fail to attract the attention of the most careless observer of the beautiful in nature; it is entirely free from that stiffness, grenadier-like appearance which some other trees of the same family exhibit. It is a happy, joyous tree; like the polite and vivacious Frenchman, it continually bows and smiles, alike in sunshine or storm, winter or summer; in the morning it wel-

comes by its glad smile and graceful motions the glorious orb of day, and as he sinks beneath the western horizon, it waves its tiny hands, as if to bid it a kind adieu for the night. When set on a lawn singly or in groups, it forms a dense mass, and produces a deep shade; perhaps it is best when planted in this way. I know a place where stands four or five noble hemlocks, beneath whose shade crops out a somewhat grotesque ledge of rocks—and I must say, though the location is far from good, that I never pass that spot without mingled feelings of love and admiration, and have often wished that I could live, die, and be buried there, that they might sing a requiem over the grave of a humble lover of nature's beauty. It is also valuable for screens and hedges; again allow me to quote from Emerson:—"As it bears pruning to almost any degree, without suffering injury, it is well suited to form screens for the protection of more tender trees and plants, or for concealing disagreeable objects. By being planted in double or triple rows, it may in a few years be made to assume the appearance of an impenetrable wall—really impenetrable to the wind and to domestic animals.

"A hedge of this kind, seven or eight feet high, on a bleak, barren plain, exposed to the northwest winds, gave Dr. Greene, of Mansfield, a warm, sunny, sheltered spot, for the cultivation of delicate annual plants. When I saw it the annuals, several of which were rare exotics, were beautiful; the hemlock screen was much more so." After having cited the above, it is useless for *me* to try to add anything in its favor as a hedge plant. I have spoken of some of its advantages, and now methinks I hear some one say it is difficult to transplant, and that it grows slow while young. The latter objection is real to some extent, it does not grow very fast—I mean small plants—for the first year or two; after that, if the land is good, it makes very good growth, though it grows even when young, as well, or better than many other things with which we take much pains, which are inferior to this. The former objection I shall answer by adding my own experience in transplanting this tree. In the spring of 1849, I pulled up about two hundred small trees, in height from a foot and a half, to three feet, out of the moss of a swamp, saving nothing on the roots; set them out immediately in a moist place; three-fourths lived and did well. The next year I tried the same experiment on a larger scale, got about five hundred, pulled them up in the same way, set them out as I did the others—four-fifths of them lived and did well; this spring I shall transplant some of them, and in two or three years I shall have fine trees for sale, from this lot. These trees have now a great many fibrous roots, and can be moved without loss. Last spring I tried larger trees from a different soil, a loam somewhat gravelly, moved about twenty-five, of sizes from three to eight feet in height, chose a moist day, took them up with a ball of earth, and set them out as soon as possible; when taking them up I was careful not to disturb the roots in the ball of earth. Every one lived, though last summer with us was the driest we have had for many years. From experience I am satisfied that they are not difficult to make live, if properly treated. That it does not occupy the position among our ornamental trees that it ought to, I think all will allow. I hope some of your subscribers will try the experiment of transplanting it—if experiment it can be called—and perhaps sometime report success.

Yours, &c., J. F. H.

Newton Centre, April 6th, 1852.

For the New England Farmer.

CATTLE GNAWING BONES.

Mr. Brown:—Allusion was made in your paper not long since, to cattle gnawing bones. When this is the case can anything be given them to promote their health? H. W.

Colebrook, April 19, 1852.

Remarks.—Certainly; bones are ground and neatly put up in bags of fifteen to twenty-five pounds each, for the very purpose of feeding to cows. The pasture becomes exhausted of some of the peculiar elements which go to form the bones, and nature prompts the cow how to supply them; she gnaws old bones for hours together. Give her a small amount of this bone dust and she will gnaw no more bones, though they lie about her as thick as "bugs in cucumber time." The dust may be found at the seed store of Ruggles, Nourse, Mason & Co., Quincy Hall.

For the New England Farmer.

THE PLOWMAN'S LIFE.

Upon the hill the sun is streaming,
On vale and meadow faintly gleaming,
In at my chamber-window beaming;
I wake, and hie me to the plow.
For me the redbreast cheerly singeth,
To yonder bough her way she wingeth,—
What glad heart-hopes to me she bringeth;
I wake, and hie me to the plow.

Let slumbering sluggards act the craven,
To vain, ignoble dreamings given,
But I will breathe the air of heaven,
The first fresh air of early morn.
Yes, let them sleep! the air seems sweeter,
And rosy Day seems coming fleeter,
When sleepy Sloth goes not to meet her,
To meet her at the early morn.

What health is in the breeze of morning,
What beauty in the flowers adorning
The dewy wayside, when at dawning
I wake, and high me to the plow.
There is no earthly life that's purer,
There is no earthly joy that's surer,
There is no earthly bliss maturer,
Than he may have who guides the plow.

Ludlow, Vt. S. H. Ingalls.

FACTS ABOUT MILK.

Cream cannot rise through a great depth of milk. If milk is therefore desired to retain its cream for a time, it should be put into a deep narrow dish; and if it be desired to free it most completely of cream, it should be poured into a broad flat dish, not much exceeding one inch in depth. The evolution of cream is facilitated by a rise, and retarded by a depression of temperature. At the usual temperature of the dairy, 50° Fahrenheit, all the cream will probably rise in twenty-six hours, but at 76°, it will probably all rise in less than half that time, and when milk is kept near

the freezing point, the cream will rise very slowly, because it becomes partially solidified.

In wet and cold weather the milk is less rich than in dry and warm; and on that account more cheese is obtained in cold than in warm, though not in thundery weather. The season has its effects—the milk in the spring is supposed to be best for calves, in summer it is best suited for cheese, and in autumn the butter keeping better than that of summer. Cows less frequently milked than others give rich milk and consequently much better. The morning's milk is richer than the evening's. The last drawn milk of each milking, at all times and seasons, is richer than the first drawn, which is the poorest.—*Exchange paper.*

For the New England Farmer.

WIRE FENCE.

Mr. Editor:—In the *New England Farmer* for May, there is an account of the proceedings of the eleventh agricultural meeting at the State House, Tuesday evening, March 30th, at which Hon. J. E. Gray presided; the subject for discussion being the "Subdivision of Lands and Fencing."

The President, in the course of his remarks, after expressing his preference for stone walls as being the cheapest and most effectual fence, alluded to Wickersham's iron fence, which could be put up for $1,25 a rod, and also to a good wire fence which could be put up for less than 75 cts per rod.

Now as every farmer has not the materials on his farm, or within a convenient distance to build stone walls, resort must be had to other modes of fencing; where a temporary fence is to be built, the Virginia fence is frequently preferred; but as a permanent fence the cedar post and rail fence is generally used.

My object at this time is to learn where these wire fences can be obtained, and whether it would *pay* to purchase a wire fence costing from 75 cts. to $1,25 per rod, in preference to purchasing posts at 17 cts. each, and rails at $7,00 per hundred.

Perhaps you, Mr. Editor, or some of your numerous correspondents, can give the desired information, which will be thankfully received.

If the wire fence could supersede the zig-zag fence, or even the post and rail fence, a great improvement would be made in the appearance of our fields and pastures; nothing is wanting to accomplish this, but to *convince* people that the wire fence is the cheapest and most durable fence.

April 19, 1852. H.

Remarks.—Wickersham's wire fence may be obtained of Messrs. Ruggles, Nourse, Mason & Co., at Quincy Hall, Boston. We have no doubt about the economy of using wire fences wherever stones are scarce and posts are seventeen or even twelve cents each, and rails are seven dollars per hundred. We have wire fence which has answered all the purposes desired for a fence for two years, herding cattle in a pasture on one side of it, while on the other there was a heavy growth of clover. The cattle put their heads through the wires and fed the clover down as far as they could reach, but never broke a wire. But it would be better to place wires so thick at the bottom as to prevent their reaching through. The wire used was, we think, No. 6, at six and a half cents a pound. Only two posts are necessary for any distance, if the ground is tolerably level; one at each end. Set a stout post, so deep and strong that you are sure of its remaining firm when you straighten up the wires. Bore the holes for the wires, pass the end of the bottom wire through, and wind round a piece of dry hard wood; then carry it to the post at the other end. Now comes what has always been found the difficult part of making wire fence—that is, straightening the wires. But nothing is more simple and easy, when we know how. The hole is bored in the post and the wire passed through some two feet. Take a round piece of hard wood five or six inches in diameter, and eighteen inches long, bore a hole near each end and one in the middle; pass the end of the wire through the middle hole, place the stick or roller against the post and turn the roller by means of iron pins in the holes in the end of the roller. You will soon find a power that will stretch or break anything short of a common-sized mountain. When you get the degree of tension desired, drive in a plug of hard, dry wood, by the side of the wire, unwind from the roller and fasten the end of the wire around the post or a spike driven into it. Put up the remaining wires in the same manner; then (your stake holes being previously dug *two* to *three* feet deep) set your stakes twelve feet apart, saw in their sides half an inch and rest the wires in the saw marks, fastening them with a nail. With good chestnut or cedar posts and stakes, and all well put up and painted, we have no doubt such a fence will last twenty-five years without much repair. It is handsome, cheap and durable, and may be made for less than *fifty cents a rod.*

We first used a horse and pullies to straighten the wire, but soon studied out the plan of the roller, which we found to work to perfection.

For the New England Farmer.

LOOK OUT FOR YOUR HORSES.

Friend Brown:—A few words of caution in this particular may prove very beneficial. Yes, I repeat, "Look out for your horses." There is no animal in the service of man that needs or deserves so good care as this noble animal. But I am sorry to say he does not receive the kind treatment and care he so justly deserves, save in a few instances. Rare would be the cases of diseases in horses, if they had kind and humane masters to take charge of them. True it is that nearly all diseases with which horses are troubled in body or limbs, are caused by carelessness and inattention on the part of their drivers.

The disease of which you speak, called "*scratches,*" is indeed a troublesome disease, and one if not seen to in season, that often proves very injurious to the limbs of the animal. A person unacquainted with taking care of them, will often suffer horses to go for weeks and months with swollen legs, not knowing the cause. Certain it is that *scratches*

is often caused by the horse standing or being used much in the wind, and then allowed to remain in the stall, with the feet uncleansed, in a cold, moist place. I have a horse which three or four years ago was diseased in this way. He remained so nearly all winter, from the fact that I did not know how to cure him. But I finally tried a remedy, which very soon after the application effected a cure,—a lasting one,—for he has not been troubled since. This remedy was linseed oil, mixed with a small quantity of white lead, applied and well rubbed in. Other remedies may be effectual, but this had the desired effect in the case I have mentioned. A. Todd.

Smithfield, R. I., April, 1852.

Remarks.—The remedy mentioned above is also excellent for galls, but should be used cautiously, as the lead is a poisonous substance. We are always glad to hear a friendly word of that noble, but sadly abused animal, the horse.

A NEW GRASS.

It was the intention of the writer of the following letter that it should be read at a recent agricultural meeting at the State House, when the subject under discussion was *Grains and Grasses*.—From some cause it was not read, and it came to us too late to be connected with the report of that meeting. The subject of grasses deserves more attention than it has yet received. The universal crop of New England, timothy, or herds grass, we are inclined to think is not the best among the grasses for hay. We hope the grass of which Mr. Willard speaks will have a widely extended trial.

Lancaster, Feb. 23, 1852.

To Hon. Isaac Davis:

Dear Sir:—Feeling deep interest in the object of the agricultural meetings held in the State House, and learning that you are expected to preside at the next, and that the subject for discussion is to be *Grasses*, will you permit me through the chair to offer a brief description of a new variety, which I think, from some years' careful cultivation and various experiments, worthy to be known and circulated as a valuable accession to those at present cultivated by our yeomanry. It has been analyzed, and is said to be a species of Bromus, materially different from any thing I had ever seen, till I found a single plant where I had sown with imported English turnip, dressed with guano.

Its surpassing luxuriance and richness as feed in pasture, and for summer soiling; its hardiness and verdure, even in seasons of drought, and in sandy soils, when and where other grasses fail; the heavy crops it yields in rich soil, and the avidity with which it is eaten by all kinds of stock; its power to hold up clover, (when sowed with it,) by its elasticity, so as not to lodge, and become slippery and bad to mow; its peculiar adaptation as feed for milch cows, both green and dry; the superior fertilizing properties of the fleece plowed in green, for manure, particularly for wheat and a turnip crop, are among its properties. And last, though not least, the value of the seed, (besides to sell and to sow,) as food for poultry, of which I was not aware till since harvesting my last crop, which being abundant, I have found the advantage of a free use of it. The size of the seed is between that of millet and rye. I think it may be preferable to hemp seed, for canaries, at least to mix. I have tried it boiled and ground, for swine, horses and neat stock, and am satisfied, from the fondness of every animal for it, and from its gluten, that, in its nutritive properties, it more resembles flax seed than any other. From the high price, and the demand for the seed, I have not used it sufficiently to speak confidently of its fattening value; but intend to know, by fair trial. We cut it for seed as soon as it begins to turn yellow, as it shells very easy. The straw is of course good fodder or bedding. We had six tons thrashed last week. Very respectfully yours,

Benjamin Willard.

For the New England Farmer.

A SUGGESTION FOR FARMERS.

After the farmer has examined and repaired all his farming implements that are worth repairing, and thrown away all his old-fashioned, ill-constructed plows, harrows, &c., and ordered those that will do his work easily, and in a proper manner; and after he has planned every piece of work to be done during the coming season, such as plowing, fence making, draining, building, &c., there is one piece of work, which, if not already done, should not longer be neglected, and this is, putting windows into the gable ends of the barns.

These should be made to open and shut by sliding horizontally, or if there is not sufficient room for this, they may he hung on hinges at the top. In either case they should be opened and shut by means of cords and pulleys; the end of the cord reaching the barn floor, or within reach of the smallest boy that will ever be sent to shut or open them. Any practical mechanic will, with five pulleys and a sufficient quantity of cord, very readily do this. The whole cost will not exceed $2,50 for each window, or $5 to each barn, using new well painted sashes, with twelve panes of 7 by 9 glass. If they are done properly, no repairs will be called for in many years.

These windows are of great use in giving proper ventilation to the hay and grain, but of much more consequence to the health and comfort of the men who pitch and mow the hay. The air rarified by the heat from the roof passes out through the window, thereby creating a draft which is so much to be desired during the sultry days of July and August, making the barn as cool as the shade.

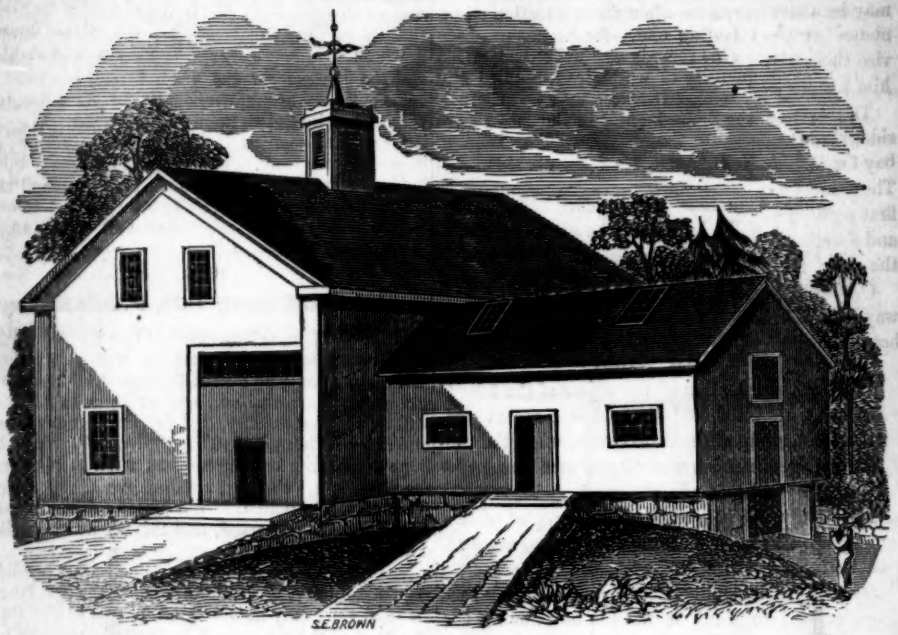
I applied these windows to three barns last season, and during the haying, was more than repaid for the trouble and expense incurred.

David Lyman.

Middletown, Ct., Feb. 18, 1852.

Mass. Horticultural Society.—We have received the addresses of the retiring President and President elect of this society, and also the schedule of prizes for 1852, which amounts to the sum of $2,520,00. The amount appropriated for fruits is $620,00; for vegetables, $250,00; for bouquets, wreaths, designs, &c., to be awarded at the Annual Exhibition, $700,00.

A MODEL BARN.



We have the pleasure of presenting our readers a Perspective View and Ground Plan of a Barn 36 by 60 feet, for a Hay Barn, Carriage Room, Granary, &c., with a Cow Stable, 33 feet square, with a cellar underneath for manure; the entrance to the cellar is at the south end.

We have long been of the opinion that there is scarcely any one thing in which the farmer is directly interested, which so much needs reform as that of the *Barn*. It is an appendage to the farm of the first importance, requiring so much time to be spent in it, both winter and summer, and having such an intimate relation to the profits upon the stock sheltered under its roof, that it is somewhat strange so few good barns are erected, and stranger still, that scarcely a *good model* is to be found in the State. Four years ago we built a barn of the best materials, and as we then supposed, upon the most approved plan for the stowage of fodder, and the comfort and convenience of the cattle and those who were to attend them. It has its ample cellar, ventilator, doors moving on rollers, &c., &c. In its construction, we certainly gained two points, viz.:—A fine place to manufacture manure, and a pretty equal temperature for the stock. The space for stowing hay, however, is cut up into too many parts, affording only scant room and requiring a great deal of labor in the busy season of haying to stow it away. The breath from the cattle, together with the vapor arising from the manure, which defies all attempts to keep it below the floor if the cellar is warm, covers, not only the floor over the cellar, but the beams, and the whole under side of the roof, with pearly trickling drops for weeks together during the winter.

If the doors are thrown open in order to evaporate this moisture, you lose the benefits you have been seeking in making a tight barn, by reducing the temperature so much that cattle require *more* food, while the effect is to *reduce* the flow of milk in the cows.

We could refer the reader to barns built in the most thorough manner, but lacking the proper ventilation, where the timbers over the cellar have become so weakened and dead in a few years as to snap square off like pipe stems, and the shingles flying by dozens at every fresh gust of wind.

The plan furnished above by Mr. HAMMOND, and which we have thought so well of as to cause it to be engraved, seems to us to come nearer to the wants of the farmer than anything we have ever seen before. And it has this merit, that a cheap barn may as well be constructed in this manner as an expensive one. We have no doubt that Mr.

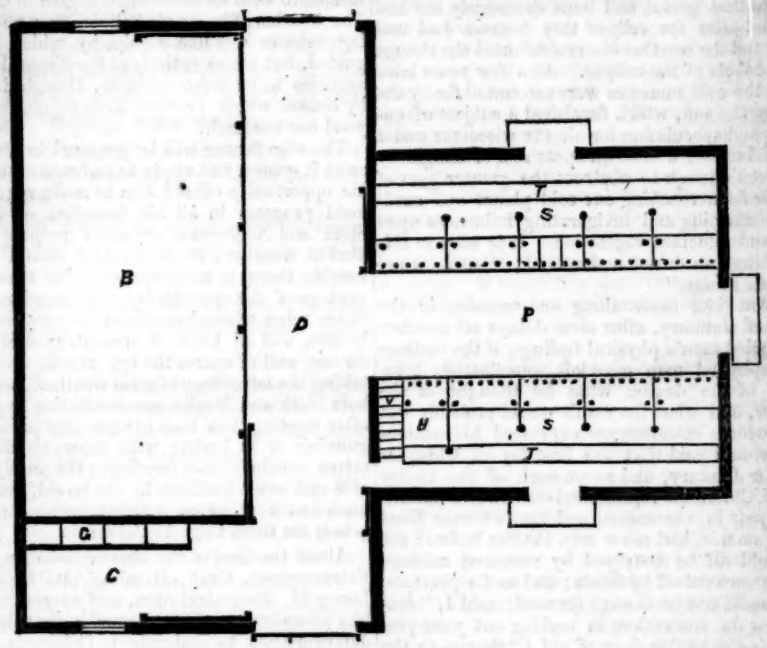
HAMMOND'S new views in relation to barns will be the means of working a considerable change in their construction. He will furnish plans, working drawings, and everything necessary for a thorough understanding of the matter, at very low prices. In accordance with his views, old barns may be altered so as to afford the greatest convenience at the least expense. We therefore advise those about building or altering barns to give him a call.

The drive way for the hay barn is on the south side, throughout the length of the barn, having a bay for hay 24 feet deep; height of posts, 19 feet. The scaffolding over the barn floor in the two first sections to be 14 feet, in the clear—the third and fourth sections to be eleven and a half feet in the clear, the remainder 14 feet.

C, Carriage room. *B*, Bay for hay. *D*, Drive way. *G*, Grain and meal bins. *P*, Passage way between cow stables. *S*, Stalls for cows. *H*, Horse stable. *T*, Trench behind cows. *V*, Stairway. This plan is to have three windows of ten by fourteen glass, twelve lights to each, on the front or west end; also two of the same size in the opposite gable end. Two windows in each side of the stable, of six lights each, ten by fourteen, with a blind to slide with each sash. All outside doors put on rollers; two sky lights in the roof of stable to serve as ventilators.

One grand object to be obtained is to separate the cattle stable from the hay barn by sliding doors above and below, to prevent the hay being damaged by the vapor and ammonia which are constantly arising from the cellar. A small barrow of some simple construction on a truck to convey the hay to the feeding passage will save much time in feeding.

Many large and valuable barns have been very much damaged by being placed over a manure cellar without proper ventilation.



GROUND PLAN.

HILLING CORN.—In cultivating Indian corn, I am confident that "hilling" is a disadvantage to the crop. Of this I became fully convinced several years ago on contrasting its results with those of the opposing system, in a field belonging to a friend. Since then I have instituted a variety of experiments, and have found that the least surface is most eligible, and that in all modifications of soil and temperature, corn which is not "hilled up" is the most vigorons, less injuriously affected by drought, and produces more and sounder corn. —*Germantown Telegraph.*

NORTH DANVERS.—The one hundredth anniversary of the settlement of this town will be celebrated on the 16th of June next. A committee of twenty-five has charge of the arrangements, to carry out which the sum of $500 has been appropriated by the town. JOHN W. PROCTOR, Esq., will deliver an address on the occasion. The citizens of the town have entered into the matter with spirit, and a good celebration may be expected.

☞ Wisdom is not always grave, nor folly gay.

For the New England Farmer.

THE WEATHER AND EMIGRATION.

BY SILAS BROWN.

Messrs. Editors:—There is no subject talked upon more, if so much, as the weather. I had a friend, somewhat sensitive in his feelings, who would frequently come in from out of doors and exclaim "the oldest man living never saw such weather before!" Whether that was true to the letter I cannot affirm. We are apt to forget or be unmindful of weather that has gone by, as well as "last year's clouds," but there is a mystery in regard to the vicissitudes of the weather which I never have seen satisfactorily explained by philosophers or astronomers.

What should cause the seasons to vary so much, is probably owing to some kind of change in the solar system which is beyond the science of astronomy to reveal to us. We have runs of forward seasons and runs of backward seasons, successions of cold seasons and hot seasons which have an influence over all our growing crops. A change took place soon after the great eclipse in 1806, which continued several years; the summers previous to that period had been excessively hot and dry, and after the eclipse they became cool and rainy, and the weatherwisers attributed the change to the effects of the eclipse. At a few years later period the cold summers were accounted for by the spots in the sun, which furnished a subject of curiosity and speculation for all the wiseacres under solar influence; wonderful spots real or imaginary were seen enough to obstruct the greater part of his rays from reaching our cold planet and shedding his warming and invigorating influences upon tardy and reluctant vegetation. It is easy to ridicule things we do not understand; "but facts are stubborn things."

Deacon Seer came along one morning in the month of January, after several days of weather which tried men's physical feelings, if the feelings of the spiritual man were left unmolested; I inquired of the deacon what he thought of the weather, and what the result would probably be; the deacon's countenance expressed his anxious feelings, and said that the first day of Chistmas stood for January, and so on each of the twelve days of Christmas represented the twelve months in the year in succession, and that whoever lived to see summer, had never seen the like before; the rye would all be destroyed by rust and mildew, and the corn cut off by frosts; and as for potatoes, there would not be enough for seed; said I, "deacon, how do you reckon in making out your prediction,—the twelve days of old Christmas or the twelve days of new style?" The deacon seemed somewhat in the way of obstacles, and in a quandary after a while concluded that the new style must have been an improvement upon the old, and of course those untoward days in new style might have been transferred from the old, and rule the months with a vengeance.

The deacon's philosophy in this case was about as rational as ours generally is about weather. Our predictions, far from infallible, consist mostly of the Yankee trait in guessing. Many have an idea that the planets do not influence our growing crops, but I believe their varying positions influence the weather, and the weather has a controlling influence upon all our growing vegetables. It is probable, in my mind, that the changing position of the planets in the solar system directly or indirectly create the atmospheric disturbances and irregularities which so frequently take place and cause such variations in the weather; causes we know there must be for these changes from the effects we daily experience, and as astronomers have not arrived at a point of knowledge adequate to explain to us the true causes of these atmospheric phenomena, we have a right to conjecture and speculate upon the subject till we can be satisfied with a solution of the true cause; whether this event may take place, while other improvements are rapidly on the march, is still a problem. I have not much faith in the management of the moon over our terrestrial affairs, whether planting our potatoes at her change or full, enlarges or diminishes our crops; but unless the moon, at her phases, causes some decided change in the weather, I should very much doubt her juggling operations in making potatoes grow. By long observation, I have remarked that we have some kind of stormy weather at the change of the moon which may be owing to her combined attraction with the sun in causing high tides and charging the atmosphere with an uncommon degree of dampness. The weather, like an air balloon, has no conducting helm or keel like a ship, by which it can be guided, but seems entirely at the disposal of *windy* agencies to us unaccountable, though influenced by causes which produce their regular effects beyond our research.

The wise farmer will be prepared for the weather as it comes, and ready to embrace every favorable opportunity offered him to make regular go-ahead progress in all his branches of business. Sloth and Negligence are never prepared for any kind of weather; if the weather should prove favorable there is no preparation to take the advantage of the opportunity, but disorder and confusion reign triumphant about the premises; plows broken, and all kinds of utensils mislaid or unfit for use, and of course the opportunity was lost for taking the advantage of good weather; and neighbors Sloth and Negligence continuing in the rear, after wasting their time at unsuccessful fishing and gunning or at loafing with comrades like themselves, conclude that farming is the most unprofitable and worst business in the world, and the climate and weather are both intolerable, and that it is best for them to go to California.

About the time of the above conclusion, Messrs. Extravagance, Grab, Humbug, Ambition, Envy, Lovegold, Poorcalculation, and several others of like adventurous spirits, formed a company with a determination to emigrate to California, and by the influence of magnetism or some other agency which aroused the vital spark that was almost dormant in Sloth and Negligence, and raised the fever to such a height, that they by sales and mortgages of their remaining effects raised money enough to defray their expenses to California. This motley company being formed, they went aboard the good steamer Enterprise and soon landed at Chagres; here the novelty of the scene, heavy potations of drown-trouble and the fragrance of the real Havanahs created such a glorious confusion in the naturally indolent craniums of Sloth and Negligence that they did not dream but their baggage was already in California; but mistakes have to be rectified sooner or later for the benefit of interested parties; these latter gentlemen, while

passing over the Isthmus, and after a length of time sufficient for their overtasked and fumigated brains to become filtrated, began to suspect that all was not right; the idea of their baggage, their all, was not such a trifle in that situation, away from home and friends, but that it aroused their feelings for once in their lives to take a kind of view at realities. Their baggage was left at the steamboat wharf, and what must be done? Sloth awakened to the error of his ways, began to meditate upon the better way of recovering his "goods and chattels," and he faced about with an energy which he had never felt before, and days passed before he recovered his forsaken treasure and reached Panama; on arriving there he found to his regret all the company gone, pursuing their voyage; but Negligence, who continued in a dreamy, undecided mood, waiting for his companion; after much delay and embarrassment they re-embarked and pursued their voyage to the land of gold, carrying the same organs and animal propensities attached to them in New England, in other words, "Pomp would go with them." S. B.

Wilmington, April, 1852.

SULPHUR—FRUIT—TICKS.

During the past several weeks the *Maine Farmer*, published at Augusta, has given very interesting reports of the proceedings of their Legislative Agricultural Meetings, which we have read with gratification. Among the speakers there has evidently been those of practical experience and careful observation.

In a discussion upon the subject of *Fruit Growing*, Mr. Foster, of Gardiner, said the preservation of fruit trees from the depredations of insects, was of great importance. A gentleman from Louisiana, had told him of a remedy which, if it accomplished the purpose, would be worth millions to the fruit growers of the United States. He had tried it for thirty years and had always been successful. Had raised good peaches when the crops of his neighbors had been destroyed by insects.

This remedy has been tried before, but with what results we do not know, and we give the remarks of Mr. Foster, hoping that new trials may be made, and the results made public. The subject is an interesting one and claims attention.

"The remedy, the gentleman said, first suggested itself to him from observing the effect which sulphur had when given to cows, when they returned from their ranges, as they frequently did in the Southern States, covered with the peculiar wood ticks which are found in the south. A dose of sulphur given to the cows at night, would, in a few hours, cause the ticks to fall off, entirely dead. Taking the hint from this, the gentleman said, he bored into his fruit trees with a bit, taking care to bore through the *alburnum*, or white wood, and into the incision thus made, he forced by means of a syringe, a quantity of sulphur, and then plugged up the hole with a plug made of white pine. He had effectually rid his trees of all destructive insects by this process, and had never known it to fail. His theory was, that the sulphur, combining with the acidulous sap of the tree, entered into its circulation. The insects were killed by feeding on the tree where the sulphur had entered into its circulation. Mr. Foster said he could not say the remedy was worth anything—he had given it for what it was worth, and would say that the gentleman who informed him of it was a planter in Louisiana, of sufficient respectability to be appointed by the president as one of the visitors of the military academy. He, Mr. Foster, had mentioned the matter to Dr. Holmes, of the *Maine Farmer*, who doubted, because sulphur was not soluble in water. In regard to that, iron was not soluble in water, yet he had known a single nail, driven into an oak tree, to discolor the wood for a number of inches, both below and above the place where it was driven."

For the New England Farmer.

A STRING OF QUESTIONS.

Mr. Editor:—A subscriber to the weekly *Farmer* wishes advice through its columns. I have fifteen or twenty acres of moist upland of a black loam or muck soil, which was never plowed, being somewhat knolly, and which formerly produced very heavy red top, but through bad management is rather run out. Now I wish to know the best and cheapest way to bring up this land to its wonted productiveness. As a top-dressing rotten manure is good; are ashes applied in the same way? also what compost and how prepared, to be applied as a top-dressing? When is the best time to cut red-top and grasses on moist land, early or late? I have three acres (has been under plow two years) of black loam, rather moist, which I intend to stock, and which is not sufficiently manured; now I wish to manure and stock it without taking off a crop, as it will exhaust the soil, wishing to have the ground in good heart when seeded to grass. What of this plan? to cart on yard manure in June, when the land is dry, and either harrow, (which is best, where the land is rather moist, to plow or harrow it in) harrow again in July, and stock the last of August by harrowing in the seed. Which is best, to sow grass seed in the spring with oats, or to plow the stubble in, and stock by the first of September? What kind of soil is best adapted to the raising of barley, and what the yield per acre? What kind of grass seeds are best for stocking pasture lands, and how many varieties would you sow at the same time? To fatten pigs with sour milk, which is the best, corn or rye meal? Excuse my ignorance; what kind of fruit is the Baldwin variety? Wish to farm it for profit, hence the necessity of *farming it right*.

Respectfully,

A Young Farmer.

Bethel, Vt., March, 1852.

Remarks.—Will some of our correspondents who have leisure, and who are impatient for opportunities of doing good in the noble cause, reply to the above interesting and important questions?

Stock.—Particular attention is still needed by all the animals of the farm, but particularly the milch cows. There is an important change going on in the system; the appetite is not so good as in cold weather, and a little grain of any kind, if it be but a little that can be spared, will be of great advantage as the warm weather approaches.

IMPROVEMENT OF MEADOW AND SWAMP LANDS.

The vast extent of unproductive meadow lands everywhere to be found in the vallies of New England, awakens the inquiry what can be done for their redemption? From time to time, we have witnessed experiments for this purpose, more or less successful, but still, a large proportion of these lands remain comparatively valueless. That they are capable of being rendered as productive as any lands on the farms, has been too often demonstrated, by actual experiment, to admit of doubt. What is necessary to be done to secure this? In the *first place*, the superabundant water should be effectually removed and shut off from the land. Until this is done, no permanent benefit can be established. It matters not how deep may be the soil, or how rich its constituents, if surcharged with an excess of moisture, such moisture will even be fatal to vegetable products. None more so, than the cold water that comes in from the upland springs. In repeated instances have we known the labor of years to be lost, by a neglect of cutting off these cold springs. Whoever therefore would redeem a swamp, should take care that all supplies of water from the shore should be effectually cut off. If other ditches need to be made, let there be one main channel for the water, and other collaterals, until the soil is so consolidated that it can be tilled. Much more can be effected in this way, than by bringing on material from abroad, such as sand or gravel, though a mixture of this kind of material with the mud is often beneficial. But such covering will be found quite ineffectual, in a few years, if the water is not removed. Where the water is, the meadow and sour grasses will spring up—and it cannot be otherwise.

Much depends upon the characteristic of the mud in different meadows—these vary quite as much as the soils upon the upland adjoining. Some kinds of mud, we have known taken from the meadow and applied directly to the upland, with an effect upon the growing crops equal to that of a dressing of manure. But generally, such mud is made more effectual by being frozen before it is applied; and often it is beneficially used in the formation of composts.

Several farms, within our knowledge, have more than doubled their crops, within the last dozen years, by a judicious application of compost formed chiefly from the mud of swamps. Judging from the papers that have appeared, by the transactions of the several Agricultural Societies of the county, in no part is more attention paid to the reclaiming of meadow lands, than in the county of Essex. The experiments of Messrs. Bradley of Methuen, Marland of Andover, Newhall of Lynnfield, Brown of Saugus, Porter of Wenham, Kimball of Boxford, Ware of Marblehead, West of Haverhill, and King of Danvers, are full of instruction on this subject. Notwithstanding much has been done by these gentlemen, and evidence conclusive given of what can be done by proper attention, still the proportion of what *has been reclaimed*, to what *remains to be so*, is so small, that the casual passer by might not be conscious that any improvements had been attempted. Many are deterred from engaging in this class of improvements, under the apprehension, that the expense incident thereto will be disproportionate to the benefits. Such need not be their apprehensions, if the facts related by the persons before named, are to be relied on. We particularly remember the meadow reclaimed by Mr. F. Brown, of Saugus, an account of which was published ten years since by that careful observer of facts, Mr. H. Colman, in which several acres of land of first quality were secured, over and above all incidental expenses. Not unlike this, is the recent experiment of Mr. Ware, of Marblehead, in which a worthless sunken morass, of about three acres, was in the space of two years converted into a field of English grass, permanent and beautiful as any other—worth at least, *two hundred dollars* an acre. The illustrations here given have been drawn chiefly from those fields that have come within our own personal observation. Others, equally pertinent, without doubt, can be found in other sections. If we have been so fortunate as to impress the owners of this class of lands with a sense of their duty to themselves and to the public, to endeavor to reclaim them, and thereby convert, what is now just cause of offence, exhaling *miasmatic effluvia* to the annoyance of all around, into fields of luxuriance and plenty, we shall have done a good service in the community. We know not how the interests of all could be better served.

RURAL LABOR.

We have observed Farmers and Mechanics in the prime of life, seemingly bowed to the earth with excessive toil, apparently almost worn out with hard and unremitted labor. Now we can hardly believe this is necessary to obtain the ordinary comforts of life; if it is, then the husbandman's avocation is indeed a hard lot. But is this hardship inevitable; is it not owing to circumstances within the limit of mitigation? Has want of economy anything to do with it; has intemperance or extravagance in any of your household anything to do with it?

These questions admit of answers; if in the affirmative, the remedy may yet be within your reach. If in the negative, then we will pursue the inquiry farther. Has unavoidable misfortune brought you the sad necessity of this endless toil? If so, then you deserve, and you have our sympathy. But is the strong desire to amass wealth the incentive to this extraordinary self-denial? Then, "What doth it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his own soul."

But we have often observed that it is not the indolent or careless man, who exhibits these unmistakable marks of premature old age. But it is

the middling class of independent Farmers and Mechanics, who possess, as a general thing, more than a competency. Now what is the object for which they expose themselves to all the inclemencies of the season, and toil on without intermission, through rain and snow, cold and heat, night and day, until they are stiff and useless with infirmities, racked with rheumatism, or struck down with disease. Is it necessary to sustain your existence? then it is a duty to go to the last stretch of human endurance.

Is it necessary to the existence of those who are dearer to you than life! Then natural affection will prompt you to discharge an imperative duty, to the full extent of your ability. Is it to provide things necessary and convenient for your household, that you are thus early sacrificing health and happiness and even life itself! Then it is a duty up to the point of necessity, and no further. Is it for the purpose of educating your children, and fitting them for usefulness in life! Then it is truly laudable, then it may be a question how far your duty extends. Is it for the purpose of amass superfluous wealth, that you may leave an inheritance for your offspring! Then it is sordid and criminal, and such a wretched suicide is beyond the circle of our sympathy.

This last mentioned class is the one we arraign, and they must plead guilty. We believe that a temperate, honest and industrious man is able, with ordinary health, to secure the necessaries of life for himself and family in this country, far within the utmost stretch of human endurance, and even *without* that superior *management* which makes many rich with little effort. And that all may have not only sufficient time for rest and recreation, but also time for mental and moral improvement.—*Green Mountain Farmer.*

For the New England Farmer.

RECIPES.

Corns can be cured by paring and wetting them with muriatic acid; it will cause no pain, unless you pare to the quick, and never fails to cure.—Try it. (*a.*)

Swelled Udder.—Boil the bark of bittersweet,—the bark of the root is best,—in water to get the strength; strain and simmer it away in fresh butter to an ointment; bottle it, and it will keep for years. This ointment is excellent for cows' bags that are swelled, and will heal a wound on a horse. Every farmer should keep it.

Bedbug Poison is the best to kill bedbugs, and leaves no scent; it is made by dissolving one ounce of corrosive sublimate in one pint of alcohol; apply the mixture with a feather to the joints of the bedsteads. Label the bottle to prevent mistakes.

I built a corn-house in 1842 on a new plan. The usual way with us has been to build corn-houses on wood posts, with a flat stone under the sill, or on stone posts, with a tin pan bottom side up under the sills to keep the mice from running up the posts; but the mice in most cases get into them. I framed the sills into the posts two and one-half feet from their end, and cased the posts, filling the wane corners of the posts, to keep the mice from running up, and put a sheet of tin round them ten inches wide under the sills; this keeps the mice and red and striped squirrels out, but the grey squirrel jumps over. My corn-house is 15 by 18 feet, 10 feet from sill to plate; the beams are framed into the posts two feet below the plates, making a good chamber for grain. It is boarded on the sides and one end with strips three inches wide and three-eighths of an inch apart. The cribs are two feet wide, laid up with strips on the inside, and will hold three hundred and fifty or four hundred bushels of ears. It is built with six posts, braced from the top of the sills to the posts and under the beams and plates; the wind does not move it. The posts should stand on a stone with a channel cut round them to keep the water from running under and rotting the posts. It should not stand near a fence, nor have steps for the mice to run upon. The tin is quite an ornament to the house. C. M.

Montepelier, Vt.

Remarks.—(*a.*) We have clear convictions on one point, viz.: that nothing is made in vain. But we had forgotten, when we spoke of *tobacco* recently, that it was a *sovereign remedy* for *corns;* at least, a lady told us so many years ago, and she the wife of a Governor, too, and she ought to know, of course! Take a fat quid, madam, (for ladies unfortunately have corns,) if your husband happens to be a tobacco chewer, and bind it upon the aggrieved part, renew it every other day, and the cure will be certain. But prevention is better than cure. The recipe is simple,—wear suitable boots or shoes.

THE FARMER'S GUIDE

To Scientific and Practical Agriculture. Detailing the labors of the Farmer, in all their variety; and adapting them to the seasons of the year, as they successively occur. By Henry Stephens. Assisted by John P. Norton, Professor of Scientific Agriculture in Yale College. Leonard Scott & Co., Publishers, N. Y.

This is a work which, in itself, would compose a pretty good farmer's library. It begins with describing the best existing methods for acquiring a thorough knowledge of practical husbandry; speaks of the difficulties the beginner has to encounter in learning, and the means of overcoming them. It then takes up and discusses, in the most systematic manner, all the various operations of the farm—the forests, fields, meadows, swamps and pasture; the barns, stables, yards and dairy. Also, all that can be said in books of the gathering, preparation and application of manures. Treats of cattle, horses, sheep and swine, their growth, management, profits and losses, diseases, remedies and various breeds; of poultry in its every relation. In speaking of plowing, for instance, it does not stop with the mere declaration that *deep plowing* is beneficial, but sustains that declaration, by such plain and practical teachings as will satisfy the most captious of the ability of the writer to teach. The *plowman's* duties are also distinctly defined, and all the operations of that art illustrated by appropriate engravings. Each branch of farm husbandry is in this manner minutely discussed, explained, and its importance enforced.

Beside this, the two large, royal octavo volumes

comprising 1600 pages, are illustrated by about 600 engravings on wood, of horses, cattle, sheep, swine, poultry, insects and implements. Fourteen of these illustrations occupy a broadside of a page, each, and eight of them are upon steel.

Now with all this mass of information, and the immense labor which it must have cost to prepare it, the question arose with us, as it will with the reader, was the writer really competent to teach, or was the creation of these volumes the means of gratifying a desire to appear before the public as an author, and that itch for writing which the latinists call *cacoethes scribendi?* In taking up the work, this question was the first one upon which we proceeded to satisfy ourselves. The author informs us in his preface, that after receiving what is commonly called a liberal education, he boarded himself with a farmer possessing 600 acres, and there he labored with his own hands at every species of work which the plowman, the field-worker, the shepherd, the steward, the cattle-man, the dairy-man and poultry tender must perform. He then travelled through most of the countries of Europe, and upon his return to England, purchased a farm and operated upon it on his own account.

In our opinion, he is entitled to the fullest confidence, not only as a practical, but a scientific teacher.

In addition to these free commendations, we think the work possesses other merits, and without which it would have small value to us. It has a full and expressive table of contents, and a minute and carefully prepared index. The text is divided into sections and numbered, and the index refers to them, so that there is no difficulty in turning at once to any particular subject. The work is also enriched by "Appendices to the Seasons," by Prof. NORTON, of Yale College.

We shall have occasion for frequent reference to this work in future investigations, and have so much extended our notice as to leave no space for the extracts which we had designed to present.

For the New England Farmer.

THE LARGEST CALF YET.

Mr. Ralph P. Gilbert, of Gilead, Tolland Co., Ct., has a finely formed, spotted red and white, (nearly three-fourths white,) bull calf, which came on Sunday, April 18. On the Monday morning succeeding, it weighed, in presence of several witnesses, one hundred and eleven pounds.

Assuming that Mr. Dudley's calf gained the same *per day* during the first four days, as during the subsequent six weeks, its weight at the *first* would have been one hundred and seven and one-half pounds, showing a balance in favor of the Gileadite of three and one-half pounds.

Mr. Gilbert's calf is not an Ayrshire, nor a Devonshire, but a *native*, and is acknowledged by all who have seen him to be the *finest* and largest calf of his age that stands on four legs anywhere in this region. Yours truly, A SUBSCRIBER.

Gilead, April 28, 1852.

For the New England Farmer.

WHITE BEANS VS. COLORED.

Why is it that no kinds of beans sell as well in market as white? I cultivate and raise a kind of bean that is of a light orange color, which is far better for cooking, and makes a more palatable dish than any white beans I ever saw. And all our friends who chance to sit at our table and partake of them as they come warm from the oven, agree with me, and say they are very good.

Yet no beans are inquired for in the market but white. The bean crop is one of the most profitable the farmer can now raise for the market, compared to the expense of cultivation. My manner of raising is to plant them among the corn, and I cannot discover that they injure the crop of corn in the least. They should be planted in the rows of corn, quite near the hill, and on the south side of the hill of corn. If planted in this manner, they are not in the way of the hoe, and the corn does not shade the beans. INSLEY DOW.

East Corinth, Vt., April, 1852.

REMARKS.—Because it is *the fashion*, friend Dow. The horticultural bean, so called, a nearly round, speckled bean, is far better, cooked any way, than any white bean we ever tasted. And this is the opinion of nearly all who try them. They are most excellent before ripening to eat with green corn, or as a side dish, and are not surpassed by any other when baked. But they are dark colored, and that makes them unfashionable. We have passed some twelve years of our life among the "darkies," without having contracted such a prejudice to the "ebony line" as to make us reject a good bean because of its complexion. If people will make trial of some other kinds of beans beside the white, we think they will soon agree with us in taste.

For the New England Farmer.

STONE WALL.

BY SAMUEL FLINT, JR.

MR. EDITOR:—Farmers and scientific men have made extensive observations to discover the cause of the potato rot. This is well; but there are causes for other misfortunes, of less importance than the loss of potatoes, and consequently, demand less attention. There is nothing, as we travel in New England, more commonly seen than gaps in the wall; especially in the spring of the year. As there is a cause for everything, would it not be well for our farmers to inquire what throws down their wall? Every body will lay it to Jack Frost, of course. He is a busy mischief-maker no doubt, and very much a "leveller;" but we often see a piece of wall that defies his power, and stands erect through a long course of years. Stones laid up on a naked ledge, if they are laid so as to stand till the builder is out of sight, seldom ever fall. So on dry sandy land, if the wall is tolerably well built, it generally stands. Why? Because the *foundation stones retain their places.* The principal, and I do not know but the only cause of gaps in the wall, is a want of stability in the bottom stones.

It was formerly customary, in building wall, to lay at the bottom two "large cobbles," as they

were called, and across these a "binder." Such wall, no matter what the superstructure may be, if laid in an easterly and westerly direction, on moist land having a southern exposure, is sure to fall down; because the frost, coming first from the south side of the wall, the "cobbles" on this side settle first, and generally slip a little down the hill, carrying the "binders" with them; and this process being repeated for a few years, the binding stones slip off from the "cobbles" on the upper side of the wall, and resting only on the lower stone, it usually happens that the top of the wall is thrown off on the northerly side. To prevent this, some recommend digging a ditch of sufficient width for the foundation, fill it with small stones, and build on them. I have never seen a wall of this kind, and do not know how it stands. Where there is an abundance of small stones, and the ditch would answer at the same time for a useful drain, I think it would do well. My farm abounds in large stones. I draw these, sometimes as large as two yoke of oxen can move down hill, and always of sufficient length for a good foundation, and placing them along in the line of my wall, build on them. The ground should be levelled when necessary, and care should be taken that one end of the foundation does not rest on a stone, while the other lies on the earth; for one end resting on a stone already fast in the earth; the other end will settle; and thus make a breach in the wall. The face of the wall, on the up hill side, should be nearly perpendicular; thus bringing the bearing on that side. I never have had any trouble with wall constructed in this manner.

Yours, &c. S. F.

Lyme, N. H.

For the New England Farmer.

AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM.

[The following remarks are in reply to a letter from an experienced farmer making suggestions upon various subjects.]

Reflecting upon the many valuable suggestions contained in your note of the 13th, it occurred, that I had entirely omitted to notice the suggestion of forming an Agricultural Museum, and bringing in *that plow of much service*, with many other things of like character. The thought is a good one, that must not be overlooked. Suppose, for instance, that the several models of plows, from the time Jefferson and Pickering applied their minds to the formation of the mould-board, up to the time when the Michigan sod and subsoil plow came into being, could be arranged in order, with an appropriate explanatory index, where could a more practical lesson be studied? Let young Stockwell, and other young men like him, have free access to such models, and it would not be long before other improvements would be matured, that have never yet been imagined. I speak of the plow, by way of illustration, but the same remark may be extended to every other implement, the use of which is found desirable. Connected with this, there should be a geological department, in which should be brought together from every part of the earth, specimens of the rocks and soil, systematically arranged. Let this be so, and some one of easy manners and ready words to explain them, and a visit to such a collection would be more useful to the young farmer than any other collection that could be made. I was deeply impressed with this consideration, during an hour that I spent with President Hitchcock, the last autumn, among the curiosities that he has gathered. He is decidedly a *practical man*—although he may not be looked upon by farmers as such. Men may be practical, who do something else beside handling the *fork* and the *plow;* there is a practice of the mind, equally valuable with that of the hands, the proper union of which will be found the perfection of operations.

It will be remembered, by those who were present at the early plowing matches in Brighton, that many of the first premiums were taken by the plows and teams of Worcester county. "*That plow of much service,*" before mentioned, is understood to be now in being, and in the hand of a gentleman, who will be pleased to place it in a museum, such as we have contemplated. How can our new State department better commence operations than by laying the foundation for such a museum?

VERBUM SAP SAPIENTI.

For the New England Farmer.

A LARGER CALF, STILL.

MR. EDITOR:—In your valuable *New England Farmer* of last month, in which you publish the account of a large calf owned by Mr. B. F. Dudley, of Milton, which, at the age of six weeks, weighed 222 pounds, you remark that people in that neighborhood consider this calf an extraordinary specimen of his kind. You wish, if any of your readers should know of any thing surpassing it, they would mention its whereabouts.

Happening to pass part of the present week with my friend, E. Murdock, Jr., Esq., of Winchendon, Worcester Co., I was shown a calf owned by him, and it was weighed while I was at his house, and its weight was 240 pounds the day the calf was *six weeks* old.

I was also informed by my friend Murdock, that the calf had not taken all the milk which its mother gave, any one day since it was dropped.

Roxbury, May 1, 1852. A SUBSCRIBER.

SPORTING.

Mr. John Partridge, of this town, killed on Tuesday, of this week, seventeen crows at two shots. A few days before he killed fifteen at two shots. Mr. P. informs us that two or three years since he procured some carrion and distributed it in a straight line at intervals of a few feet, this attracted the crows in great numbers. He succeeded, in one day, with six shots of an old musket, in capturing 76 crows, at one time killing twenty. The above facts are reliable.—*Culturist and Gazette.*

REMARKS.—Mr. Partridge had better have blasted rocks with his powder, and made an aqueduct pipe of his old gun, than shot the crows with them. In the "dark ages," some years ago, New Hampshire, and we believe Massachusetts was equally enlightened, offered a bounty on *dead* crows; but after paying out some thousands of dollars, found out that they had offered a premium for the scalps of some of their best friends! and very wisely repealed the law.

"We often mistake our friends for foes."

☞ Industry and perseverance merit success.

ESSEX COUNTY TRANSACTIONS.

The pleasure was ours of attending the last annual exhibition of the Essex county Agricultural Society, at Salem in September last. Since that time its ample volume of Transactions has been published, and through the kind attention of its President, the Hon. JOHN W. PROCTOR, we have received copies. This society has long been in vigorous existence, and we have no doubt has been the means of increasing the productive powers of the soil of that county some hundreds of thousands of dollars in value. It has been favored through a long series of years with men of such intelligence and earnestness of purpose, and at the same time impressed with such a sense of the importance of a more thorough cultivation in order to derive a remunerating profit and meet the demands of increasing trade and population, that its prosperity and usefulness have been constantly increasing. With such men as COLMAN, KING, NEWHALL, PICKERING, and many others in that ancient county, who have ever been interested in the cultivation of the soil, any of our societies may increase their fruits an hundred fold. Mr. PROCTOR, we believe, has been the President of this society for more than thirty years. Such long-repeated confidence, and annual approbation of services would, to us, afford a higher gratification than any political honor which could be conferred,—indeed, it almost negatives the scripture declaration that "a prophet is not without honor save in his own country." Mr. PROCTOR has it not only every where else, but *in his own county*.

Mr. DODGE, of Hamilton, is the never-tiring Secretary of the society, and we have no doubt that much of its success may be attributed to his indefatigable industry in gathering and preparing the reports for publication.

The operations of a society may be very extensive, and of a high character, but if they are not reported so that the people at large may come at them, they can be of but little use to any but those making the experiments themselves. It is necessary that full and thorough reports, but in a clear and concise style, should be made. In the Essex society this seems to be fully appreciated. One such report as that made by Mr. WM. F. PORTER, of Bradford, must do much to settle the question as to the profits of farming, and affords strong encouragement to those who are doubting. His neighbors admitted that he had a good farm, but doubted whether he could obtain a living from it. The farm, with new buildings erected, stock tools, &c., cost about seventeen thousand dollars. Looking at the credits to the farm last year, the reader will perceive that the interest on that investment was nearly *twelve per cent.*, an interest that ought to satisfy any reasonable man in any business.

But the people of Essex county have accomplished a great deal in the improvement of their meadow and swamp lands, until they have not only satisfied themselves, but all who look upon them, that they may be made the most productive lands we have. We have been looking at some of the former volumes of the Transactions, as well as the last, with reference to the improvements made on meadow and swamp lands; but as our remarks are somewhat extended, have placed what we had to say particularly on that subject in another column.

DEEP PLOWING.

As the season is approaching when our farmer friends will start their plows, we deem the following article, which we find in the *Germantown Telegraph*, to the point at the present time:—

A farmer in this vicinity whilst plowing last fall, was asked by a neighbor who, although he had a large farm, could scarcely support his family off it, why he plowed so deep?

"Because, neighbor," he replied, "I plowed the same way last year, and the year before, and I found I plowed a great deal of gold!"

"Gold!" exclained the amazed neighbor, "why, how much did you plow up?"

"Well, some hundreds of dollars a year—and I did it in this way; my crops were twice as large where I plowed as I now do, in the same fields where I formerly plowed only to half the depth, and they take less manure too."

"I don't believe a word of it," said the neighbor, disappointed in the gold digging. "If that is the way you plow up gold, I am afraid you will never set the river on fire. I go for the good old way, and find it the best. There is little to learn in farming which those before us did not know."

"Well, neighbor, you may do as you like, but I have tried both ways, and I am more than satisfied with the result. Indeed, by strictly persevering in it and other improvements, I shall nearly or quiet double my profits, and all this excess I consider just so much gold plowed up in my fields."

"Ah," continued the neighbor, "I see you are from your notions a book farmer, and belong to an agricultural society; but you'll find it won't pay in the long run, I think."

"There's where you are in error, my friend; I am no book farmer—I belong to no agricultural society, but I mean to join one at the earliest opportunity."

PREVENTION OF GUM ON PEACH TREES.—A practical gardener informs us that if the earth is removed from the roots of the peach trees affected with gum, to a distance of one foot immediately around the trunk, and finely powdered charcoal applied to them the thickness of an inch, that it will effectually check the flow of gum.

THE CHERRY SLUG.—This larva, which eats the pulpy part of the leaf of the cherry, and sometimes of other trees, is most effectually routed by a sprinking of *lime*. Air-slacked lime, applied in the dew of the morning, accomplishes the desired purpose. Dry, water-slacked lime, taken fresh, is still better, being more caustic.—*Exchange.*

For the New England Farmer.

MILKING—COW MILKERS, &C.

BY L. DURAND.

Mr. Editor:—The keeping of dairy cows, milking, &c., is what is known and practiced by farmers in all countries more or less. In this country I believe that the largest part of milking is done by men and boys, which, perhaps, is as it should be. However, I think that the "girls and women" on the farm should all know how to milk; and some agricultural writers contend, that all the milking should be done by the females, a matter which I do not believe in altogether. As in case of stormy weather, unruly cows, &c., most of the milking should be done by the men (and done, too, without grumbling,) after a day's work. I have been brought up to this business from boyhood, and well remember when first I began to learn that it would be a nice thing to get so as to milk well. But after I had got well learnt and found that I had got to make a business of it, very soon we began to "sing quite a different song." It is my impression now, that throughout England, Scotland and Ireland, most of all the milking is done by females. This, perhaps, comes from custom, but many of the farmers contend that women have more patience than men, with cows, and so of course get more milk.

My experience in the art of milking has led me to the conclusion that among the great mass of milkers only a few are in every respect *good* milkers. It is astonishing to see the difference in the amount of milk which a good milker will obtain from a cow, and a poor and bad milker. When an indifferent milker sits down to a cow, he is so slow and tedious in drawing the milk that the cow gets out of all manner of patience, and before the job is done, very often she kicks over the pail, and milker too, to pay him for his job. Then this slow, tedious milking proves in a short time to lessen the amount of milk, and finally to dry up the cows. A cow should be milked in the shortest possible time that the milker can take to draw the milk from the bag. The milker should not stop to talk, or tell stories with his fellow-milker in the meantime, but should continue to squeeze till the milk is all drawn from the bag. My father, who was a good milker, always drew all the milk with the thumb and fore finger. But very few milkers, however, can milk in this way; they more generally press the teats with the whole hand and finish off by stripping with the thumb and finger. In case of young heifers with very short teats they then must be milked in this way by stripping.

Something like a year ago, I saw for the first time "Knapp's Patent Cow Milkers," advertised as being a great improvement in milking, both in saving time and labor. The idea struck me at the time as being of great value to large dairymen if the "milkers" could be made to answer the purpose of drawing the milk from the cow's bag in a short time and getting as much milk as could be got by the hand. But having never seen the "milker" nor never having seen any one who has seen them tried by experiment, I could not say as to their value. However, your friend King, of the *Journal*, condemns them at once, but whether he does so by practical experience or by common consent as another "humbug exploded," he does not see fit to inform us. Neither should your correspondent, B. B. French, condemn them because that his "robin bone leg milkers" did not do good service thirty years ago. This is an age of improvement, probably in "cow milkers" as well as in everything else, and improvements never go backward. If the "cow milkers" will draw the milk clean from the cow's bag in half the time or less than can be done by hand, and that without pain to the cow, they should be adopted at once by all farmers and dairymen who keep over four cows. The time and labor saved by the use of these milkers, to farmers who keep ten, fifteen, twenty or thirty cows, in milking, would be enough to buy an extra cow or pay for the half of an extra hired laborer on the farm. I go in decidedly for all improvements in agriculture, whether it is in cow milking or corn hoeing. Just test the question by actual experiment and without prejudice, and then if it proves valuable, adopt it; if not, then cast it aside. Of all inventions ever yet contrived none is quite equal to the human hand, as is very well known. And yet, as perfect as is this machine, it has been found that hand labor alone is altogether too slow a process to carry on the works of art. So labor-saving machines in all kinds of business have been set to work, which perform the labor of so many thousands of human hands, all which go to cheapen the necessaries and luxuries of life. Were it not for these improvements society could not progress, the improving world would come to a stand still, or go back to the dark ages.

But to return to "milking;" and that there is a good deal of art in this business, let any "green hand" take hold of the cow's teats and he will find that instead of squeezing out the milk into the pail he squeezes it up into the bag. In fact, it requires a good deal of practice to become an expert milker. Another thing is, let every milker provide himself with a good "stool" to set on and then with kind nature and gentle treatment to the cow he may succeed. Yours truly, L. D.

Derby, Ct., April 21, 1852.

Indian Corn.—Indian corn contains about sixty per cent. of starch, nearly the same as oats. The proportion of oil and gum is large, about ten per cent.; this explains the fattening properties of indian meal, so well known to practical men. There is besides these a good portion of sugar. The nitrogenious substances are also considerable in quantity, some twelve to sixteen per cent.

Sweet corn differs from all other varieties, containing only about eighteen per cent. of starch. The amount of sugar is, of course, very large, and the nitrogenious substance amounts to the very large proportion of twenty per cent.; of gum from thirteen to fourteen; and of oil, to about eleven. This, from the above results, is one of the most nourishing crops known. If it can be made to yield as much per acre as the hardier varieties, it is well worth a trial on a large scale.—*Working Farmer.*

How to Cut Asparagus.—In passing through our markets in asparagus time, we find immense displays of that article, which is just about as fit for eating as would be rolls of hedghog quills boiled. Nevertheless it *looks* beautiful—so white and clear. The writer of this sent a small quantity to market last season, but found great difficulty in disposing of it. The stems were absolutely *green!* But

after having tried it there was a clamorous demand for "more" like it. Cut your asparagus even with the surface of the ground. The white portions cannot be eaten—why should the trouble be had of boiling and buttering them! When the stems have had a sufficient exposure to the air to become green, they will cook tender; but they should not be allowed to grow too long—six inches or so is long enough.—*Prairie Farmer.*

THE LESSON OF A PLANT.

The humblest flower that blooms in the valley contains secrets and mysteries which all the philosophers on earth could not understand or explain, were they to devote a century to its study. There is nothing that man ever made, which may not be understood by any one of ordinary powers of mind, after a little study. The most curious combinations of machinery become very simple, and their operations are all perfectly comprehended, after we have looked into them awhile. But it is not so with the works of God. Take, for instance, this little flower. You know its name, and the genus to which it belongs. You can tell where it grew, and what kind of seed it sprang from, and what kind of soil and location it loves. You know its properties, and how long it was in coming to maturity, and how long it remains in blossom. You may even subject it to the microscope, and to chemical analysis, and be able to name its essential elements, and method of structure. But you cannot push your investigations much farther. You cannot explain *how* these bright and beautiful tints, these delicate and regularly-shaped leaves, and this sweet fragrance, grew out of a handful of common earth. You cannot tell why the stalk is of one color, the leaves of another, and the flowers, perhaps, pencilled and shaded with beautifully varied hues. You cannot explain those curious instincts of the plant, which are displayed in various degrees in different species, and which sometimes almost incline us to the belief that consciousness and intelligence are not restricted to the animal world.

But although we may never be able perfectly to understand the mysteries which are wrapped up in this little flower, we may derive important lessons of wisdom from it. If we will examine it with care and candor, it will teach us something about the greatness, the goodness and the perfection of its Creator, which will be of great benefit to us. An incident in the life of the Count de Charney affords a happy illustration in point. This French nobleman was possessed of education and fortune, but unfortunately was deficient in moral principle. He was fond of reasoning, but he confined himself to a "vicious circle" of argument, beginning in prejudice and unbelief, and ending in doubt and skepticism. Having become involved in a secret political movement in 1804, which was discovered by the police, he was confined in the fortress of Fenestrelle. While pacing the little court-yard connected with his cell, one spring morning, he espied a little blade of vegetation springing up between two of the stones, which had scarcely yet escaped from the seed. It at once became an object of attention to the lonely man, and each day, as he witnessed its growth, and studied out the ingenious contrivances provided by nature for its protection from injury, the interest with which he regarded it increased. His hours of exercise were spent almost entirely by its side, watching its growth, and studying its changes; and often when confined in his cell, he continued to gaze on it, through the window. The result was, his pride was humbled, his skeptical notions vanished, and new and before unknown emotions found a place in his breast. It became his instructor in wisdom, his solace in imprisonment, and finally was the means of procuring his release from confinement by order of Napoleon, through a curious train of circumstances too extended to notice here. The original narrative of Count de Charney and his prison flower, written in French, has enjoyed great popularity, and is considered a valuable auxiliary in the cause of religion and morals, as, from its style, it influences minds which would turn away from formal treatises of natural theology. And thus this little chance-flower has been the means of pouring truth and light into many minds, in addition to the blessings it conferred on the poor prisoner of Fenestrelle.

It is related of the Rev. John Thorpe, an English clergyman, that after he had preached for about two years, he was greatly harassed with atheistical doubts, which continued to distress his mind for several months. One day, while passing through a wood, he was surveying his hand, when a leaf happened to fall into it. A sudden impulse moved him to examine the leaf, and in holding it between his eye and the sun, and reflecting upon its exquisitely curious and wonderful formation, he was led into a new train of thought, and received such a conviction of the existence and ineffable perfection of God, that his doubts and distress were removed at once; and he prosecuted his journey, rejoicing in the Creator, and admiring him in every object that presented itself to his view.

Paley considers that the evidences of creative wisdom and design are not so numerous in plants as in animals. This may be true, but there are certainly more evidences of a wise Creator in the vegetable world than most men imagine. Our familiarity from childhood with the thousand strange and beautiful operations of nature, too often prevents our seeing or appreciating the lesson they would teach. If we will but listen, we shall never fail to hear voices in the woods and among the flowers, and wherever there is a living and growing thing, uniting in the great hymn of nature,

"The hand that made us is divine."

For the New England Farmer.

A FEW WORDS ON GRAPE CULTURE.

Mr. Brown:—A few years ago there was an Isabella grape fever, and almost every family in our villages had a vine or more on their buildings; some erected trellises for them to grow upon, which made a fine ornament. Now they generally look as if they wanted the doctor. Many of them seem past recovery. In 1850, the fruit was cut off in this county by the frost, and many vines injured in autumn. My vines were defoliated by the first of Sept. About the 15th of August the under side of the leaves became red; they appeared to be eaten by some minute insect, and finally withered and fell, leaving the fruit hanging worthless. The next spring, 1851, I found but one plant, in a lot of 400, that had any life in its roots. The roots were black and rotten; these were one and two years old. Some plants from 5 to 7 years growth shared the same fate; only some 6 or 8 out of 80 plants pushed a few feeble shoots.

What shall we grow? Shall it be the wild, or fox grape (so called) as some have recommended? To me the greatest difficulty appears to be its unproductiveness, it having but few berries on a bunch, and those falling off by being slightly jarred; even a high wind will shake them off as fast as they ripen, especially after a slight frost.

As a source of profit, they are worthless, for they cannot be sold in market for enough to pay the gathering, unless the buyer thinks they are Isabellas.

I find Isabellas grown here, are not the Isabella's grown in the vicinity of New York. I have eaten fruit that was fruit, from a vine growing in Brooklyn, L. I. It was called the Isabella. It commenced ripening there by the 15th of August.

An extensive grape grower in the vicinity of Brooklyn, who has eleven acres devoted to the grape, paid $15, and trimmed the vines for the cuttings for his vineyard. He considered it the best grape he was acquainted with. Our Isabellas are hardly an apology. His vines are trained to a wire trellis, his posts are locust and chestnut, with the wire drawn horizontally through them. May not the Sweetwater take the place of the Isabella? Gen. Newhall, of Lynnfield, has a variety called the Sweetwater. I think he procured the plant or seed of a gentleman from the Mediterranean. It usually ripens before frost comes; the fruit is sweet, with little or no pulp, transparent, pale green. It sells readily at from 20 to 35 cts. per lb. As it must be protected in winter, I would suggest a mode of culture. It is not so rampant a grower as the Isabella, which I think is in its favor for training. Set the plants on the south or southwest of some building or fence, about two feet off, set them three feet apart, in the row, and train each plant to a separate post.

Prepare the post in this manner:—Set a hard wood post in the ground, leaving about one foot above the ground; prepare a pine scantling eight feet long, two inches thick, four inches wide at the lower end, two inches wide at the top. Saw out a piece in the post set in the ground, bore two holes through the post and scantling, and put pins in them so that by taking out the upper pin, the scantling will lay on the ground, the lower pin acting as a hinge. Set the post so that the scantlings will all lay one way, laying over each other. In the autumn, take out the upper pin and let them fall, with the vines attached as they grew. Take some boards, and lay them edgewise on each side of the vines, which makes a sort of box, and fill it with earth. Would not such a mode of culture be more ornamental, with ten or a dozen plants in front of a house, than the Isabella, with its naked and crooked trunk reaching to the top of the house, with the fruit around the attic windows, and that all mildewed. Some object to the Isabella on account of the injury to the house, which this mode will obviate. They answer for shade when shade is wanted. In winter they are not an unsightly thing, because they are out of sight.

N.

Danvers.

Remarks.—The Yankee shines out pre-eminently in that suggestion. We have vines on the south side of a ledge where the snow accumulates to such a depth as to break vines and trellises every winter. The suggestion seems a good one.

For the New England Farmer.

CORN FOR GREEN FEED.

Dear Sir:—I wish to inquire through your paper what kind of corn you think it the most profitable to plant to be cut up, while green, for fodder. I am aware the southern corn yields more in bulk than the sweet corn, and I would like to know if the latter makes up in *quality* what it lacks in *quantity*, so as to render it as profitable to raise for this purpose as the former. By answering these inquiries you will oblige,

Yours, &c., Daniel Buxton, Jr.

Remarks.—We always sow the yellow flat corn to cut up as green fodder for cows, and have no experience with any other. Some of our readers have undoubtedly made experiments with corn for this purpose, and will be pleased to communicate their opinions. The *Working Farmer* recommends what it calls Stowell's Evergreen Corn for this purpose, and states that "the stalks are nearly as sweet as those of the sugar-cane, and that double the quantity can be grown to the acre, to that resulting from the ordinary sweet corn." Corn as green fodder is an important crop; it gives a large yield, is very nutritious and palatable to the animal, all which make it very desirable that we should know what are the best kinds to use.

Do not Work for Nothing.—"We have long contended, and religiously believe, that the cultivators of American soil perform more unnecessary work every year to obtain their crops than the aggregate labor of all other classes combined. This prodigious loss of labor and capital can never be prevented until the laws of nature that govern the fruitfulness of the earth and the rewards of farm labor, are *studied, understood and obeyed.*" So says Dr. Lee. Patent Office Report, 1850-51, page 63.

Freezing of Vegetables.—Contrary to general opinion, freezing is not necessarily destructive of life in vegetables. At Charles Island, in Hudson's Bay, according to Captain James, the trees had

to be thawed by fire before they could be cut down, and there is no doubt that the roots are as well frozen as the stem since vegetation prospers in Siberia, where the following observations have been made:—A well was dug 400 feet deep, and the temperature at 50 feet was 18° Fahr., at 77 feet 19°, at 119 feet 22°, at 300 feet 28°, at 382 feet 31°. At this place the soil is frozen to the depth of 400 feet; the cold reaches 58° below zero, and the mean temperature of the two winter months is 40° below zero. During the 128 days during which there is no frost, the strata of eternal ice are never thawed to a greater depth than 3 feet.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

BOOK NOTICES.

RURAL ARCHITECTURE. By LEWIS F. ALLEN.—This is another of SAXTON'S admirable books for the farmer. The other professions have long had their publishers, and the press has been enlisted to disseminate the doctrines which their books have taught. The farmer now has *his publisher* of works directly pertaining to his profession, and they are issued in a style becoming the beauty and importance of the subject of which they treat.

The volume before us contains a description of farm houses, cottages, and out-buildings, comprising wood houses, workshops, tool houses, carriage and wagon houses, stable, smoke and ash houses, ice houses, bee and poultry houses, barns and sheds for cattle, together with the flower, fruit and vegetable garden, and the best method of conducting water into cattle-yards and houses. These matters are all illustrated with handsome engravings, and the book is printed on large clear type and good paper. Now in one or another of the subjects discussed in this book there is probably not a farmer in the land but will find some aid. He has water to introduce into his house or barn, something to build or something to alter. In this book he may find such hints as will suit his case, for it was made on purpose for him. "We insist," with the author, Mr. Allen, "that agriculture, in its true and extended sense, is as much a profession as any other pursuit whatever."

We give a few extracts from the admirable preface, believing that in no other way can we better fill half a column. So we take, first, the following just remarks upon agriculture as an employment:—

"It is an opinion far too prevalent among those engaged in the more active occupations of our people,—fortified indeed, in such opinion, by the too frequent example of the farmer himself—that everything connected with agriculture and agricultural life is of a rustic and uncouth character; that it is a profession in which ignorance, as they understand the term, is entirely consistent, and one with which no aspirations of a high or an elevated character should, or at least need be connected. It is a reflection upon the integrity of the great agricultural interest of the country, that any such opinion should prevail; and discreditable to that interest, that its condition or example should for a moment justify, or even tolerate it.

* * * * * *

"Why should a farmer, because he *is* a farmer, only occupy an uncouth, outlandish house, any more than a professional man, a merchant, or a mechanic? Is it because he himself is so uncouth and outlandish in his thoughts and manners, that he deserves no better? Is it because his occupation is degrading, his intellect ignorant, his position in life low, and his associations debasing? Surely not. Yet in many of the plans and designs got up for his accommodation in the books and publications of the day, all due convenience, to say nothing of the respectability or the elegance of domestic life, is as entirely disregarded as if such qualities had no connection with the farmer or his occupation. We hold that although many of the practical operations of the farm may be rough, laborious and untidy, yet they are not, and need not be inconsistent with the knowledge and practice of neatness and order, and even elegance and refinement, within doors; and, that the due accommodation of the various things appertaining to farm stock, farm labor, and farm life, should have a tendency to elevate the social position, the associations, thoughts, and entire condition of the farmer. As the man himself—no matter what his occupation—be lodged and fed, so influenced, in a degree, will be his practice in the daily duties of his life. A squalid, miserable tenement, with which they who inhabit it are content, can lead to no elevation of character, no improvement in condition, either social or moral, of its occupants. But the family comfortably and tidily, although humbly provided in their habitation and domestic arrangements, have usually a corresponding character in their personal relations. A log-cabin, either,—and I speak of this primitive American structure with profound affection and regard, as the shelter from which we have acheived the most of our prodigious and rapid agricultural conquests,—may be so constructed as to speak an air of neatness, intelligence and even refinement in those who inhabit it.

* * * * *

"A farmer has quite as much business in the field, or about his ordinary occupation, with ragged garments, out at elbows, and a crownless hat, as he has to occupy a leaky, wind-broken and dilapidated house. Neither is he any nearer the mark, with a ruffled shirt, a fancy dress, or gloved hands, when following his plow behind a pair of *fancy* horses, than in living in a finical, pretending house, such as we see stuck up in conspicuous places in many parts of the country. All these are out of place in each extreme, and the one is as absurd, so far as true propriety is concerned, as the other. A fitness of things, or a correspondence of one thing with another, should always be preserved upon the farm, as elsewhere; and there is not a single reason why propriety and good keeping should not as well distinguish it. Nor is there any good cause why the farmer himself should not be a man of taste, in the arrangement and architecture of every building on his place, as well as other men."

☞ The book may be found for sale at *Tappan & Whittemore's*, Boston.

A Practical Treatise on Manures.—This is the title of a duodecimo of 204 pages, discussing the subject of manures. It purports to be a republication from the British Society for the diffusion of useful knowledge, and has found its way to our table from some source unknown; but has the imprint of E. S. Jones & Co., Philadelphia. It speaks of all the various kinds of manures, and occasionally of their application. On page 150, in speaking of the *quantity* of ashes necessary to be applied to the acre, it says,—"we think it should never be laid on any land in a less quantity than 800 bushels per acre." Now we should value *ten* bushels of ashes as quite a valuable help to any acre of land we possess; if we could apply twenty, or a hundred bushels to the acre we should like it better, but would by no means reject it altogether, because we could not apply 800 bushels. From the cursory examination we have found time to give the book, however, we believe there is a great deal in it that is good sound doctrine. Price, and place at which it may be found, unknown.

Farmer and Artisan.—W. G. Edmandson, editor and proprietor, Keokuk, Iowa.

Farmer and Artisan.—Marcian Seavey, editor and proprietor, Portland, Maine.

These two papers appeared upon our table at the same moment, both with the same title, purposes and interests. Separated by a territory wider than that which composes powerful nations in the old world, and yet but a hand's breadth, as it were, of our extended country. The singular coincidence of the birth of these two papers, excited a train of reflections, among which was that of the magnitude of agricultural interests, of the increase of publications on the subject, and the popular favor which they are everywhere receiving.

Both papers are handsomely printed, and filled with instructive articles. We extend to them the right hand of fellowship, welcome them to the broad field of industry, and wish them all success.

ITALIAN SPRING WHEAT.

Col. Artemas Fay, of Southboro', has left with us a sample of this wheat, raised by Mr. Asaph Andrews, of Shrewsbury, Mass., which he says averages *thirty bushels* to the acre, and has done so for the last eight years, on a fair soil; and one year he raised *forty-four* bushels to the acre.

He prepares the seed by soaking it in water—if all the foul seed does not rise, he adds salt to the water, which brings up all the light seed. Sows as many bushels of salt annually per acre, as he does of spring grain of any kind, and thinks he profits by it. Sows wheat after corn. Plants the *Dutton* corn, and gets from 75 to 90 bushels per acre, and says he has gathered this crop for many years past.

If Mr. Andrews does this, others can do as well, *if they know how.*

SWEET POTATOES.

This vegetable requires a dry, sandy loam, in good condition; for ordinary crops, it is not necessary, however, to be extra rich. In deep and highly manured garden soils the tubers run to a great depth and are long and slender. I have had them in such soil full two feet long, and one-half to three-fourths of an inch in diameter, eatable the whole length—but the same amount of food in a potato four to five inches long is in a more desirable form. The form of the tuber is said to depend much on the form of the hill, kind and quality of soil, &c.,—all of which I have not fully tested.

Plants should be set three to four feet apart each way. The form of the hill may be very well represented by a large tin milk pan, bottom side up. Keep clear of weeds, and coil the vines round on the top of the hill. The vines frequently run 15 feet from the hill, if left to take their own course. They should be dug soon after the first severe frost and put away in dry sand. In winter they must not be exposed to frost or moisture.—*Rural New-Yorker.*

AGRICULTURAL INVENTIONS.

The *New York Tribune*, in an article on inventions, throws out the following important hint for the benefit of inventors and mechanics:—

And this brings us to the moral we had intended ere this to inculcate—that the field of invention in aid of agriculture is broad, inviting, and to a greater extent still untrodden. We have barely begun to bring the potent resources of science to the aid of the food-grower, and very much is to be done in their development and application within the next ten years. There is now obvious need of a locomotive plow, able to break up and thoroughly pulverize the soil to the depth of two feet or more if required, at the rate of ten or fifteen acres per day, tossing stones of two or three hundred pounds aside and uprooting stumps in its steady progress. The value of such a machine would not be measured by its cheapening of the cost of plowing per acre, for it would prove an antidote to drought, and would soon secure at least double the harvest usually obtained from our shallowly and shabbily plowed fields. And more: it would enable the farmer to plow at precisely the right time, when his soil is in the proper condition, instead of being obliged to break up the soil out of season and in all weathers in order to have it done at all. Thus the high British estimate of McCormick's reaper is based less on its estimated saving of expense than on the fact that it enables the farmer to take advantage of any temporary break in the dull weather so common there, and harvest a hundred acres of wheat while he would be saving a quarter of it in the old way. Yet the economy of this and kindred machines is also very great. In the pamphlet before us, we note that the saving by the reaper is variously estimated by farmers who have used it at $15 to $25 per day.

Why should not our young men of talent and energy devote both to the contemplation of our implements of agriculture, with a view to their improvement? Consider what strides the last century has witnessed in the improvement of machinery for the production of fabrics, while the ma-

chinery for the growth of food has advanced comparatively little. And, backward as we are, we are far in advance of most other nations. Italy, beautiful, suffering Italy, needs to-day millions of dollars' worth of such implements as we could profitably send her if she only knew how much she might profit by them; and a thousand ingenious, observing, intelligent, stirring Yankees diffused among her people as apostles of agricultural improvement, (especially with the schoolmaster to aid them,) would do her immeasurable good, if her jealous and stupid tyrants would but let them. There are broad fields of effort now open or opening to those inclined and qualified to labor for human progress, and prominent among them is the field of agricultural improvement by machinery. Let it not be neglected; and let those who achieve brilliant successes therein be duly honored and rewarded.

For the New England Farmer.

A STRING OF ANSWERS.

Mr. Editor:—A "Young Farmer" wishes to obtain some information, in regard to reclaiming a particular piece of upland, of a moist, black, loamy soil. Now the best method to bring it to its "wonted productiveness" would be to give it a thorough plowing, for land which has "*never been plowed*," if ever so productive, naturally, will not yield very heavy crops, and the result must, of course, be attributed to "bad management" somewhere. Manure of a light substance, such as refuse of hay, would be best to *plow in* on such lands. Ashes applied as a top dressing do well. Swamp muck, lime and ashes as a compost are generally considered beneficial, on lands of this description. Many farmers are too much inclined to cut *all grasses* out of season. Grass cut just in the right time is worth 40 per cent. more at least, than that which has stood until the bottom has begun to dry up and decay; but some allowance must be made for *very moist* land and a wet season. Manure drawn in June "when the land is dry," would do better plowed in, in most cases. Grass seed sown in the spring with oats, is preferable among most farmers here.

Rather moist upland, with a sandy clay sub soil, has done remarkably well, in producing barley, provided the ground is *well manured*.

As for pasture lands, I am not prepared to say what kind of grass seed should be sown to the best advantage. "Variety is the spice of life," therefore, in order to fatten swine, corn would seem to be the best as a general thing, but rye is also used with profit, provided the "supply is equal to the demand."

Ohe! jam satis.

May, 1852.

Flower Culture.—The most delightful and healthy employment for ladies, is the culture of flowers. The general superintendence of a garden is generally found favorable to health, by leading to frequent exercise in the open air, and that communing with nature which is equally refreshing to the heart. The tending of flowers has ever appeared a fitting care for the young and beautiful. They then dwell, as it were, among their own emblems, and many a voice of wisdom breathes on the ear from those sweet blossoms, to which they apportion the dew and the sun-beam.—*Southern Cultivator.*

THE STRAWBERRY.

Hear what the *Soil of the South* says about this fruit. We certainly should feel obliged to friend Peabody, if he would have one of the largest specimens coppered, sides and bottom, excavated, masts set in, and loaded with a few hundred bushels and sent to this port. We will guarantee the cream and sugar to match! Stand back, a little, gentlemen, one of these may roll down and crush a foot or leg!

We are informed by intelligent gentlemen from Cincinnati, that our fruit in the Columbus market averages a third larger than the best that is sold in Cincinnati, and as we now write, April 25th, bushels may be picked from our beds, more than four inches in circumference. And if your correspondent will, with his accustomed liberality in horticultural matters, offer a premium of a hundred dollars, for a bushel of strawberries picked at one picking, the least one of which shall measure four inches in circumference, we will pick that bushel and convince the Ohio cultivators that vines may be dwarfed without dwarfing the fruit. * * * Our vines hug the ground, and the fruit stem frequently occupies more space than the leaves. Did you never see a fruit tree twice dwarfed without affecting the size of the fruit? Why, then, should you doubt the same principle in the strawberry plant? * * * We repeat, what we have before said, and is susceptible of daily, weekly, and monthly proof, that we have picked ripe fruit from our vines ten months in the year, and can always do it six. Our fruit commenced ripening in March, and the same vines are now again in fruit and bloom.

Think of that! Such a strawberry patch on the right, a sugar plantation on the left, and a herd of short horns in the distance, to furnish the cream! Talk of paradise and lands that flow with milk and honey! Give us the sunny South, and Columbus, in Georgia, in particular. These are the Elysian fields, and brother Peabody may expect us in his precinct the first moment we can get out of the furrow.

An Irish Wood Cutter.—Last week, Mr. Bigelow, of Sherburne, told a newly-arrived Irishman, whom he had just employed on his farm, to go out into his pasture (pointing to a pasture over beyond his orchard,) and cut all the scattering pines. The Irishman went into the orchard, instead of the pasture, and commenced work upon the apple trees. He cut down two entire rows through the orchard before he was noticed. The trees were fine, young, bearing trees, and the damage done was estimated at $200. The poor fellow seemed hardly aware of the mischief he had done, and said he meant to have got them all down before night.—*Lowell Courier.*

Age and Perseverance.—It is a fault too much practised by both sexes to indulge in listlessness, and a kind of hopeless languor, at the decline of life. Our energies and talents were given us to persevere to the end.

For the New England Farmer.

PRESERVING BIRDS.

Mr. Brown :—I wish to know the best method of stuffing and preserving birds, for cabinets, &c.

If you or some one of your subscribers would be so kind as to give a description of the process, I think it would be very acceptable to many of your readers.

Yours, respectfully, G. J. D.

North Danvers, 1852.

Remarks.—Our associate, Mr. French, is accomplished in this art, has a fine cabinet of most of the birds common in New Hampshire, and we have no doubt will cheerfully give all necessary directions for stuffing and preserving birds.

Kentucky Cultivator.—This is, we believe, the first and only paper in Kentucky, devoted exclusively to agricultural subjects. It is published at Cynthiana, by J. Atkinson, in quarto form, (a mistake, by the way—it ought to be octavo) is printed well, its columns well filled, and the *young shoot* looks as though it might produce a vigorous crop. You have a wide field, brother, now let us see you make the hill-sides of old Kentucky smile with beauty, and her vales be filled with fatness.

Longevity.—The *New Bedford Mercury* says that there is a strip of land bordering on the sea in South Dartmouth, known as "Smith's Neck," which is about one mile in width by one and a half miles in length. The inhabitants on this strip of land are mostly Quakers, who number 145, the ages of twenty of whom average 86 years, and make an aggregate of 1729 years. Twelve of this number have attained to from 80 to 95 years, making an aggregate of 1134 years, and eight others (the comparatively middle aged) are now from 60 to 78 years of age. This is an amount of longevity not often paralleled.

Butter.—We are pleased to inform our readers that this necessary article is becoming much cheaper. For a few weeks past it has been selling at a very high rate, but butter of the best quality can now be had for from 20 to 23 cents.

☞ The *Louisville Journal* has two or three columns devoted to agricultural matters, which are always of the best kind, and must prove of essential benefit to those of its numerous readers who have any fancy for dirt, ditches and dunghills.

☞ New potatoes from Bermuda, have been in the market for a week past, and are selling at $1,00 per peck.

Whitewash.—Mix your wash ready to be applied to the walls, then mix a gill of good flour, in a very little cold water, and pour on boiling water till it thickens; add it to the whitewash while hot, and stir the whole well together. This wash will not rub off, and retains its freshness for many months.

Mechanics' Department, Arts, &c.

THE CALORIC SHIP ERICSSON.

It was stated a short time since, that a ship was building in NewYork, to which a new motive power was to be applied, viz., caloric. A New York letter in the *Transcript* gives some interesting particulars in regard to this new power, and the ship which is to be propelled by it. The correspondent says :

"On Saturday I visited the engine manufactory of Messrs. Hogg & Delamater, of this city, and had the privilege of inspecting Ericsson's caloric engine of sixty horse power, while it was in operation. It consists of two pairs of cylinders, the working pistons of which are 72 inches in diameter. Its great peculiarities consist in its very large cylinders and pistons, working with very low pressure, and in the absence of boilers or heaters—there being no other fires employed than those in small grates under the bottoms of the working cylinders.

"During the eight months that this test-engine has been in operation, not a cent has been expended for repairs or accidents. It is a beautiful and imposing object, and conveys the idea of power and symmetry much more impressively than the largest steam engine that I have ever seen.

"The leading principle of the caloric engine consists in producing motive power by the employment of the expansive force of atmospheric air instead of that of steam, the force being produced by compression of the air in one part of the machine, and by its dilatation by the application of heat in another part."

The great advantages claimed for this improvement, are the saving in fuel, and its entire safety. A ship carrying the amount of coal that the Atlantic steamers now take for a single trip could cross and re-cross the Atlantic twice without taking in coal. A slow radiating fire without flame is required, and this can be best supplied by our own anthracite. An explosion cannot happen to the caloric engine—the only result from neglect will be the stoppage of the machinery. If these great desiderata are really found, and can be successfully applied, the world may look for another revolution in ocean navigation equal to that produced by the application of steam.

The Ericsson is a beautiful model, 2200 tons burthen, and will be ready for sea by October. The machinery is described as of the most perfect kind. The cylinders are 108 inches in diameter—72 inches larger than those in the Collins steamers.—*Boston Journal.*

REMINGTON'S BRIDGE.

Some few years ago the Remington bridge was spoken of all over the country as a mechanical wonder, and the model excited much attention in London. One was built at Montgomery, Alabama, of which the *State Register* gives the following account :—

"Remington's bridge, after standing for months in a very tottering condition, has now broken in two about the middle, and fallen into the ravine. Soon after its completion it was tilted to one side by the wind and its own weight and never righted—the slope being too great to allow the passage of vehicles. It stood unused, a monument of hum-

buggery, for more than a year; and we presume that its destruction will convince even the most decided believers in Remington's theory, that his plan will not answer for long and heavy structures, which, as in the case of the bridge here, will break with their own weight, after losing their original balance, by the action of the weather. The bridge, we believe, was never accepted by the Council, and the city, therefore loses nothing by its unfitness and demolition. It was built under the supervision of Remington himself, and must have been a costly work."

GALVANIZED IRON.

Mr. R. Hunt, in the course of a lecture on mining, delivered at the London Institution, said,—"Considerable attention had been lately paid to the process of galvanizing iron,—a discovery which promises to be of the highest utility. Mr. Nadsmyth, of Patricroft, near Manchester, and Mr. Owen, two gentlemen connected with the government committee on the subject of metals, had lately been making experiments, the result of which would indicate that, by giving iron a coating of zinc, or by combining zinc with iron in its manufacture, it would be much improved, preserved from oxidizing, and rendered less brittle; and that old plates of iron—such, for instance, as had been used for the bottoms of ships—with an admixture of zinc, still possessed its original qualities; and, in fact, iron re-melted from such plates was found to be of a better quality than at first. These experiments had, indeed, excited great attention to the important question, whether iron would not be improved by a small portion of zinc. Tinned iron, exposed to the atmosphere, very soon became oxodized; but in iron protected by zinc, although exposed to all weather, there was no change. Indeed, a piece made bright remained so after being placed in water several months. The zinced iron, which was now used in roofing large buildings—as, for instance, the new Houses of Parliament—had the quality of becoming incrusted with a coat of oxide of zinc, which prevented any further destructive effects from exposure to the atmosphere."

Swimming Apparatus.—The *Washington Telegraph* states that Mr. De Bibery has invented one of the most important life-saving and swimming apparatus we have ever seen. Application has been made by Mr. De B. for a patent. It is a kind of frock or doublet, and interlaid with small metallic boxes, inflated. This doublet may be worn as an overall on shipboard, and it is impossible for the wearer to sink below the shoulders, and Mr. De B. asserts that a person may remain in the water any length of time, and the water has no effect whatever on the buoyancy of the dress.

New Invention.—The *Oswego Times* describes a machine to prevent steam boiler explosions. The principle upon which it acts is that of a feeder, which will keep the water in the boiler always at the same height.

Rose Insects.—The following remedy will be found a most effectual one:—To three gallons of water add one peck of soot and one quart of unslacked lime. Stir it well—let it stand for twenty-four hours, and when the soot rises to the surface skim it off. Use a syringe for applying it.

Boy's Department.

TIME WELL IMPROVED.

We had the privilege and gratification (a gratification it was truly) one evening last week, of witnessing the operations of a beautiful little steam engine, manufactured by a brace of clever lads in this city, during their leisure hours after school and vacations. The cylinder is 2 1-2 inches in diameter, with a stroke of 7 1-2 inches, and it has all the fixtures of a well-bred machine, and works beautifully. The engine is all the work of two pairs of youthful hands, and is certainly a compliment to their ingenuity and perseverance. But what pleased us most was to see two lads, surrounded with all the amusements of the day, and with almost unlimited means for gratifying themselves, turning their attention to the useful things instead of the follies of life. While other boys have danced and rode and wasted their time in that which profiteth nothing, they have made themselves masters of the principles on which a steam engine is built, manufactured one, and have put it in operation. Well may they, as they do, feel proud of their achievement.

We allude to this mainly for the purpose of showing our young friends what they can do in their leisure moments, and to impress upon them the necessity of keeping themselves occupied with something useful and instructive, instead of wasting their time and exposing themselves to the bad influence of others with whom they are too apt to associate when idle.—*Weekly Mirror.*

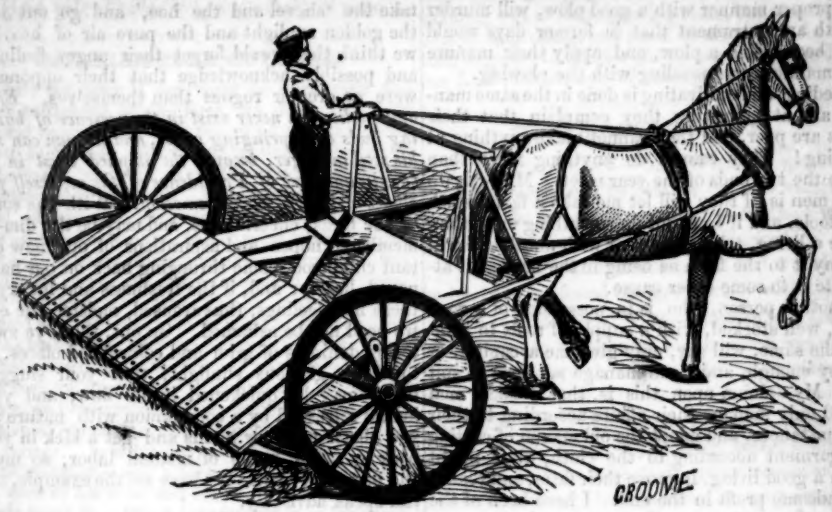
SONG FOR BOYS.

When life is full of health and glee,
Work thou as busy as a bee!
And take this gentle hint from me—
Be careful of your money!
Be careful of your money, boys—
Be careful of your money;
You'll find it true, that friends are few,
When you are short of money!

But do not shut sweet mercy's doors
When sorrow pleads, or want implores;
To help to heal misfortune's sores,
Be careful of your money!
Be careful of your money, boys—
Be careful of your money;
To help the poor who seek your door,
Be careful of your money!

SLANG.

The use of slang phrases, to which so many persons in this country are addicted, is, if not an invariable mark of vulgarity, indicative of low associations at some period of life, and a certain want of dignity and refinement. The young naturally fall into this habit, so offensive to good taste, not only because they have examples in their associates, but because the columns of too many newspapers that fall into their hands abound with low slang, and the wit and vulgarity of theatre lobbies and street corners. As the use of such terms serves no good purpose whatever, but tends rather to what is low and demoralizing, parents ought especially to discountenance it in their children; and, so far as themselves are concerned, give up the habit if it should have insensibly grown upon them.—*Home Gazette.*



INDEPENDENT HORSE RAKE.

We give above a representation of Delano's Independent Horse Rake in full operation. The cut hardly needs explanation.

Each tooth acts separately, its head being suspended by a rod. This rake has been in use two years in Massachusetts, and several hundreds of them have been sold. We see them highly recommended by the best farmers in this State and New Hampshire, and also by the Worcester, Essex and Middlesex Agricultural societies. We have used one for two years past, and find it to answer all the purposes for which it has been recommended. It operates well on land either rough or smooth, and rakes as fast and clean as any other which we have seen, and has the advantage of requiring but one person to work with it, and he can ride comfortably, instead of working hard on foot, as one is obliged to do with the revolver or spring tooth.

The patent right for the counties of Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk, Franklin, Worcester and Suffolk, is owned by James W. Odlin, Esq., of Exeter, N. H., who has authorized Ruggles, Nourse, Mason & Co., and Parker & White, to sell the rakes, the ensuing season. The price is twelve dollars, without wheels.

The rake is usually fitted to the hind wheels of a single horse wagon. The operator cleans the rake, when filled with hay, by pressing with his foot upon the triangle, without stopping the horse. The work is very light for both man and beast, and on the whole, we advise our friends who are not already suited with a horse rake to try one of the Independents.

For the New England Farmer.

AGRICULTURE AS AN OCCUPATION.

BY RALPH HOLBROOK.

Mr. Editor :—It has been a source of satisfaction to me that the Legislature of your State has taken so much interest in this important occupation, and I could wish that the Legislature of this State, (N. H.) would take as much interest in the same cause. I have lived some fifty-eight years in the world, and have followed no other branch of business, excepting getting out lumber and cord wood for the market, in addition to my own fire wood, during the winter season, when there was not much other work to be done on the farm.

Although I have followed this branch of business for so many years, yet I never have seen the time when I had any inclination to exchange it for either of the many occupations which mankind follow in the world, to make money by, in addition to a living. And I can truly say, that the longer I follow my occupation the better I like it, and the more profitable I can make it. It has long been a source of regret to me to see so many young men who have been brought up on a farm, as soon as they become of age quit their former employment, and seek for some other (as they consider it) more profitable employment. In many instances that have come within my observation they have been disappointed, and in some cases they have taken the wise, but it may have been humiliating step, of returning to their former employment.

Now I would not advise any man who has nothing but his bare hands to begin the world with, to involve himself in debt to obtain a farm, stock, and tools; for in so doing, (to use the farmer's phrase) he would have rather a hard row to hoe; and yet, if a young man who enjoys good health can find some profitable employment, and will be satisfied with a fair compensation for his labor and be economical, he may, in the course of a few years,

lay up something handsome to begin business with. There are some men who yet stick to the old method of managing a farm (but their number is yearly decreasing) who, instead of plowing their land in a proper manner with a good plow, will murder it with an instrument that in former days would have been called a plow, and apply their manure in a manner corresponding with the plowing.

Seeding, and cultivating is done in the same manner, and at harvesting they complain that their crops are poor, and they cannot make anything at farming! They cannot do anything more than make the two ends of the year meet. My reply to such men is, if they will let me take a farm, stock and tools, and if I cannot do something more than make a living, taking one year with another, I will not lay it to the farm as being in the fault, but attribute it to some other cause.

Another person, who is in possession of a good farm, well stocked, with a supply of tools to manage the same, will say, only give me a capital, or money enough, and I can manage my farm to suit me. My opinion upon this is, that if such men would only manage their affairs according to their circumstances, and adopt the old maxim of cutting the garment according to the cloth, they might make a good living, improve their farm, and realize a handsome profit in the end. I have been of the opinion for many years that no man has yet arrived at anything like perfection in this business; and after so many years of experience as I have had, I consider myself as scarcely out of my apprenticeship at it, and consider it as differing greatly from the employment of the mechanic. If the blacksmith does not get his iron in the right shape to fit the place, he can heat it and shape it till it will fit; so it is with the joiner, if he has not got a good joint the first time trying, with his saw, plane, or chisel, he can alter it until he makes a good joint. Now it is not so with the farmer; if he has not his manure in the right condition, or does not apply it to the right kind of soil, or has not put his seed in at the right time, or put in the right quantity, he cannot alter it, but must abide the issue. As I have spoken mostly upon the subject of my own occupation, I would not wish to be understood to be of the opinion that there are no other branches of business of importance to mankind, for all occupations that are honest are necessary, and we are but fellow-laborers and co-helpers to each other.

I subscribe myself yours with respect,

Bedford, N. H., 1852. R. H.

AN EDITOR IN THE GARDEN!

The Hoe and the Pen! Glorious implements! they move mind and matter, and embellish both. No wonder our brother in Wisconsin was inspired! He had escaped to the garden; Heaven's sunlight and breezes were upon his brow; he stood in the midst of springing plants, of opening, fragrant flowers and cheerful songs. A cask of Byron's *gin* could not have kindled such a flame as he felt glowing in his heart. Hear what he says, kind reader; it will touch your heart, and perhaps urge you to the garden to catch a fit of inspiration like his:—

"We have been gardening this week, and, having no breath to blow the bellows of aspiring politicians, have substituted the scissors for the pen. If those editors who are hurling their big words of defiance and reproach at each other, would just take the 'shovel and the hoe,' and go out into the golden sunlight and the pure air of heaven, we think they would forget their angry feelings, and possibly acknowledge that their opponents were no greater rogues than themselves. *Envy and malice can never exist in the presence of bursting buds and springing grass, and no man can sow his seed in anger, because the implied trust in the bounty and care of Providence of the act itself precludes any such wicked emotion.* With the songs of the birds, cheerfulness, and may be the dim-remembered hopes and aspirations of our now distant childhood, come thronging back on our hackneyed hearts; and, if the freshness and luxury of these new feelings, thus aroused, moisten the eye, we need not be ashamed. Go out, then, ye sweltering denizens of grim and cobwebbed offices, into God's glorious sunlight, that your sluggish blood may be quickened in its flow, and your hearts refreshed by a communion with nature; if you blister up your hands and get a kick in your back by a few hours of manual labor, so much the better for you. We have set the example, and can speak advisedly."

For the New England Farmer.

PLANTING TREES.

Mr. Brown:—*Dear Sir*,—In Col. Wilder's very valuable remarks at one of the agricultural meetings this winter, respecting the cultivation of the dwarf pear, he instances three "*indispensable conditions of success.*" And one of these conditions is, that the tree shall be planted deep enough to bury the quince stock *entirely below the surface of the ground.*

Now one of the prime rules of arboriculture is, that a tree is not to be set too deep. Better far too shallow, than too deep. Whoever has had any experience, or exercised any observation, knows well, that more young trees are killed from too deep setting than anything else. Well, our pear trees come to us from the nurseries, worked, very often, six and eight inches up from the root, on the quince stock. Then are we to sink the root all that distance into the ground? I shrink from doing so—others are equally perplexed. And we summon you or Col. Wilder to solve the problem.

Yours truly, H. F. H.

Lawrence, May 13, 1852.

Remarks.—We have no doubt that Col. Wilder will reply with as much satisfaction to "H. F. H.," as with pleasure to himself.

Extracts.—"I see in your paper the history of some remarkable cows. I have one which is 12 years old next August; she has had 17 calves, and raised all but one, and she is a No. 1 milker.

Vermillion, Ill."

A correspondent in *Haverhill, N. H.*, states that the "Messrs. Chandler, of that town, have a bull calf of the Ayrshire, Durham and Devon breeds, that weighed at three hours old 130 lbs."

Mr. George Carpenter, of Orange, has a lamb

which at birth weighed twelve and a half pounds, from a sheep one year old. Mr. R. P. Gilbert, of Gilead, Conn., has a two year old sheep which brought a pair of twins weighing nearly 19 pounds.

INTELLECTUAL CULTURE.

While we deem it our duty to encourage the better cultivation of the farm, we deem it also of the first importance, that the mind and the heart be not neglected. They need cultivation as much as the earth, and will as readily yield good fruits. Cultivate the intellect. Few instances can be found, of men who have struggled with difficulties in acquiring knowledge, and so must have acquired habits of industry, diligence, self-government, and self-denial, who yet have remained bad men. Such instances are rare. There may be distinguished scholars and men eminent in the sciences, and as statesmen, who are bad men; but we know not how much worse they would have been, but for their love of knowledge. Knowledge is directly power, and indirectly virtue; and is generally productive of happiness. No man needs it more than the farmer. It is his duty and his interest to cultivate knowledge and a love of knowledge himself, and give to his sons and his daughters the means of obtaining it. What amusement is so innocent, and at the same time so cheap, as a good book? There are corrupting books—and the world is full of them—but generally speaking, they are less corrupting than idle and vicious companions; both should be avoided. Who ever knew a *young* man idle himself, and the companion of idlers, that was not ignorant, corrupting and conceited? And "who ever knew an *old* man towards the close of life, amid all his regrets, grieve at the time and efforts devoted to useful studies, feels knowledge a drag on the heaviness of old age, or who would exchange it for anything but true virtue, or the pure joy of heaven?"—*Vermont State Journal.*

THINNING OUT VEGETABLES.

There is a greater loss in suffering vegetables to stand too thick, than most cultivators are aware of. It does require considerable nerve to commit indiscriminate slaughter upon fine growing plants. For instance here are ten beautiful melon vines, just beginning to run, with fruit blossoms forming. Now, who has the bold hardihood to draw them all out but three or four, and throw them wilting away? Who can take the beets just as their tops give evidence of roots below, and separate them to ten inches? It is a hard matter, we must confess, and is not properly done one time in twenty; but to have bulbs, top-roots, melons, cucumbers or squashes, it must now be done, and the increased vigor of the remaining plants will repay the trouble. Then fall to and spare not; no top-rooted plant or bulb should stand so thick that the hoe will not pass freely between them. No vine should have more than four or five plants left to a hill.

Snap beans look so pretty growing thick that we hate to disturb them; but if you would have the bushes yield their pendant treasures, thin out to ten inches. We know of nothing that will bear as thick planting as English peas; in place of thinning them, shade the ground around them; now that they are in bloom and in pod, they will continue in fruit much longer; the shade enriches the land and saves culture. It is not always those that make the earliest and best; but those who thin judiciously and cultivate understandingly. Most gardeners plant seeds too thick, trusting to thinning out in their growing state, but alas! they look so uninviting, and plead so eloquently for life, that degenerate inferior plants are the rewards of our false philosophy.—*Exchange.*

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

W. B. W., *Gilford.*—Mr. WILLARD speaks of the grass mentioned by him as "a new variety." He must have been acquainted with the "witch grass," as it is called in New Hampshire, and "piper grass," in Massachusetts, and would not be likely to confound his new variety with this.

G. A. C., *Amherst, N. H.*—Hogs should always have access to the ground, and in warm weather a wallowing hole with water. This is necessary to their health and thrift. But, they also require a warm, dry bed. Wallow as they will, no animal enjoys a soft, warm, dry lodging, better than the pig. All animals have their parasites—even the common house-fly has its louse, so very small as to be totally invisible to the naked eye; we have recently examined him through the microscope, and a curious chicken he is. The pig has his enemy too, in the shape of lice, one of which would make about ten thousand of that of the fly. When the animal is neglected, these increase and gather along on the top of the neck, back, and about the roots of the ears. By wallowing in the mire, he not only cools himself, but becomes encrusted with mud, which, in being rubbed off, takes the vermin with it. If hogs lie on a plank floor, great care should be taken that a cold draft does not rush up between the cracks of the floor.

Every animal on the farm requires a dry and warm shelter to resort to when it pleases.

J. W. B., *Wolfboro', N. H.*—Trees girdled by mice may frequently be saved by inserting strips of healthy bark from other trees. Trim the edges of the girdled bark with a sharp knife and insert the strips, running up and down, so as to fit very close; in a tree three or four inches through insert several strips; bind a cloth round the whole and bank up with earth. Another method is to plant young seedlings at the root of the girdled tree, and splice their ends to the upper portion of the girdled part. We have known this mode successful in some instances.

A good whitewash may be made by slaking good lime, adding a little salt, and sifting in half a pint of hard wood ashes to two gallons of the wash, for outside work. This is cheap, and upon the whole, about as good as anything in a cheap way.

H. E., *Practical Suggestions.*—Excellent, and shall have a place by-and-by. They will be appropriate at any time, and are, therefore, postponed

a little till we get the "spring work" out of the way.

M. G., *Portland, Me.*—The apples left by you from a gentleman in Cumberland, are the Newtown Pippin, and give plenty of evidence that they do not flourish remarkably well in New England.

C. S., *Lancaster, Mass.*—Thank you for your interesting papers; shall be glad to receive articles as you propose,—short, and applicable to our purpose.

☞ Several valuable communications received we shall find room for soon. "Farmer's Daughters," "A word to Farmers about Summer Schools," "What knowledge is most valuable to the Farmer," "The present condition of Veterinary Medicine in its relation to Agriculture," "Chemistry and Vegetable Physiology," and several others, are all of sterling merit. While we express our obligations to the writers of these and other communications, we would ask them to continue their favors, as during the busy months of summer with most farmers, they suspend writing for more active operations, and we shall have more time and space to devote to other contributors.

☞ To the inquirer through the *Franklin Democrat*, we would say, that we gave Col. LITTLE'S recipe for making grafting wax as coming from a gentleman intimately acquainted with all the operations of grafting. We have prepared the grafting cloth by his recipe and like it; and have also used wax where the proportions were reversed—the rosin largely prevailing. "The proof of the pudding is in the eating," and that of the wax in the *working*. Prepare it so that it may be handled comfortably, and it is not important what the proportions are.

Ladies' Department.

COLORS IN LADIES' DRESSES.

Incongruity may be frequently observed in the adoption of colors without reference to their accordance with the complexion or stature of the wearer. We continually see a light blue bonnet and flowers surrounding a sallow countenance, or a pink opposed to one of a glowing red; a pale complexion associated with canary or lemon yellow, or one of delicate red and white rendered almost colorless by the vicinity of deep red. Now, if the lady with the sallow complexion had worn a transparent white bonnet, or if the lady with a glowing red complexion had lowered it by means of a bonnet of deeper red color—if the pale lady had improved the cadaverous hue of her countenance by surrounding it with pale green, which, by contrast, would have suffused it with a delicate pink hue, or had the face—

> Whose red and white Nature's own sweet and cunning hand laid on,

been arrayed in a light blue, or light green, or in a transparent white bonnet, with blue or pink flowers on the inside, how different and how much more agreeable would have been the impression on the spectator! How frequently, again, do we see the dimensions of a tall and *embonpoint* figure magnified to almost Brobdignagian proportions by a white dress, or a small woman reduced to Lilliputian size by a black dress. Now, as the optical effect of white is to enlarge objects, and that of black to diminish them, if the large woman had been dressed in black, and the small woman in white, the apparent size of each would have approached the ordinary stature, and the former would not have appeared a giantess, or the latter a dwarf. Sky-blue is always considered as most becoming to fair persons, and it contrasts more agreeably than any other color with the complimentary orange, which constitutes the key-note, as it were, of the general hue of their complexion and hair. Yellow and red, inclining to orange, contrast best with dark hair, not only in color, but in brilliancy. Violet and green, also—the complimentaries of these two colors—do not produce a bad effect when mingled with dark hair.

HOW TO RENDER ASSISTANCE IN ACCIDENT.

We digest for the benefit of readers, especially in country places, the best course to be adopted in emergencies like the following:—

In case of a fractured or dislocated limb, let the sufferer lay on the ground until a couch, door, gate or plank can be procured, for in raising him up he may die from faintness or loss of blood. When procured, place the door or gate along side of him, cover it with something soft, and let men convey him steadily home, but do not put him into a vehicle of any kind.

In Fits.—If a person fall in one, let him remain on the ground, provided *his face be pale*, for should it be a fainting or temporary suspension of the heart's action, you may cause death by raising him upright or bleeding; but if the face *be red or dark colored*, raise him on his seat, throw cold water on his head immediately, and send for a surgeon and get a vein opened, or fatal pressure on the brain may ensue.

In Hanging or Drowning, expose the chest as quickly as possible and throw ice water over it, whilst the body is kept in a sitting position.

Children in Convulsions.—Deluge the head with cold water and put the feet into warm water, till medical aid can be procured.

Poison.—Give an emetic of a teaspoonful of mustard flour in a teacupful of warm water every ten minutes, till vomiting ensue or medical assistance is obtained.

Burns and Scalds.—Let the burnt part be bathed in a mixture of turpentine and of olive oil, or linseed oil, equal parts, till the pain abates; then dress it with a common cerate, and defend it from the air.—*N. Y. Farmer and Mechanic.*

A WIFE'S INFLUENCE.—A late writer observes: "It is not presumption to believe that if Henrietta, the wife of Charles I., had been born a Huguenot, instead of a Catholic king, the civil wars, the commonwealth and the Protectorate of England, would never have been." The same Henrietta was the mother of James II., whose devotion to the Catholic church caused his own expulsion from the throne, and the revolution which seated

William and Mary upon it. Henrietta, therefore, may be said, in a certain sense, to have changed the course of modern English history, and affected thereby the destiny of the world. Who shall say that women wield no political power!—*Home Journal.*

GARDENING FOR GIRLS.

Some of the best writers on education in the country have advocated the importance of this subject, and the peculiarly healthful and strengthening influences that attend it.

Miss Beecher, in her work on Domestic Economy, recommends every father to "set apart a portion of his yard and garden for fruits and flowers, and see that the soil is well prepared and dug over, and all the rest may be committed to the children. These would need to be provided with a light hoe and rake, a dibble or garden trowel, a watering pot, and means and opportunities for securing seeds, roots, buds and grafts, all which might be done at a trifling expense. Then, with proper encouragement, and by the aid of such directions as are contained in this work, every man who has even half an acre, could secure a small Eden around his premises."

The writer of a very popular treatise on gardening says:—"A love of flowers is one of the earliest of our tastes, and certainly one of the most innocent. The cultivation of flowers, while it forms an elegant amusement, is a most healthful and invigorating pursuit. The flower-garden, while it agreeably occupies the time, does not impose a heavy tax on the pocket; and there are very few flowers but what may be cultivated to as great perfection in the garden of the peasant as of the peer. It is a taste, too, which is well adapted to the female character, and affords much rational amusement to the recluse. The cultivator of flowers is not confined to the gratification of beholding the expanded flower, when it spreads forth its glories to the meridian sun; every stage of its growth has been a source of delight, from the moment the seedling peeps above the ground, to the period of its perfect development; and a flower which has been reared by one's own hand is viewed with tenfold delight, compared to one, the growth of which has not been witnessed or provided for."

PRESERVING FRUITS IN THEIR OWN JUICE.

As the season of fruits is now approaching, it may be interesting to our lady readers to be informed of a method by which the most delicate fruits can be preserved so as to retain their flavor for an almost *indefinite period*. Thirteen bottles of fruits so preserved were exhibited lately at Rochester, N. Y., by Wm. R. Smith, of Wayne county, viz.: five of cherries, two of peaches, one of strawberries, three of different varieties of currants, one of blackberries, and one of plums. They were examined by a committee, and found of fine flavor; and the committee expressed the opinion that the art of preserving fruit in this manner is practicable and valuable, and that the fruit, when carefully put up, can be made to keep as long as may be desirable.

The method of preserving is thus given to the New York State Society by Mr. Smith:

They are preserved by placing the bottles, filled with the fruit, in cold water, and raising the temperature to the boiling point as quickly as possible; then cork and seal the bottles *immediately*. Some varieties of fruit will not fill the bottle with their own juice—these must be filled with boiling water and corked as before mentioned, after the surrounding water boils.—*Southern Cultivator.*

For the New England Farmer.

DIRECTIONS FOR BOILING RICE.

Take one pint of good clean sound rice, wash it well in several waters, rub it well between the hands, and pour off the water at each washing as soon as possible, to take off all the small particles that would be likely to color the rice. This done, take one quart of water to one pint of rice, put in one-half teaspoonful of fine salt, put it over the fire, let it boil fifteen minutes without stirring, and then take it off. If the rice has not taken up all the water, pour it off; if it is good rice it will take it all up. When this is done, give the rice one good stirring, and the only one, place the kettle on some hot embers where it will simmer for fifteen minutes more. This done, your rice will come on the table, each grain separate, as white as snow and well cooked. Joseph Leland.

Grafton, April 22, 1852.

DOMESTIC RECEIPTS.

Curd Cheese-Cake.—One quart of milk, half a pound of sugar, a quarter of a pound of butter, five eggs, one teaspoonful of grated nutmeg, a quarter of a pound of currants.

Warm the milk, and turn it to a curd, with a piece of rennet, or a tablespoonful of the wine in which a rennet has been soaked. As soon as the milk is a thick curd, take it out with a broad ladle or spoon, and lay it on a sieve to drain. Beat the eggs, and add the drained curd, also the sugar and butter, which must have been beaten to a cream, then the spice and fruit. For those who would prefer it sweeter, more sugar may be added. Line your pie plates with paste, fill them with the above mixture, and bake in a moderately hot oven.

Cottage Cheese-Cake.—One pint of curd, one gill and a half of cream, three eggs, sugar, nutmeg, and cinnamon to the taste.

Mix the curd and cream thoroughly together. Beat the eggs, add them with the sugar and fill them with the mixture. Bake in a moderate oven.—*National Cook Book.*

Rice Blancmange.—This forms an excellent accompaniment to preserves of any kind, or to baked apples. It is made as follows:—Put one teacupful of whole rice into half-a-pint of cold water; when the rice cracks or begins to look white, add one pint of milk, and a quarter of a pound of loaf sugar. Boil it until the rice has absorbed the whole of the milk, stirring it frequently the whole time. Put it into a mould, and it will turn out when quite cold. If preferred hot, it may be again made warm by being placed in the oven for a short time. It may be flavored with lemon, cinnamon, &c.; but is most wholesome without, and forms both an elegant and very economical dish at any time.

LEWIS G. MORRIS'

THIRD ANNUAL SALE, BY AUCTION, OF

Improved Breeds of Domestic Animals

WILL TAKE PLACE AT

MOUNT FORDHAM, Westchester Co., (11 miles from City Hall, New York,) on Wednesday, JUNE 9, 1852.

JAMES M. MILLER, Auctioneer.

APPLICATION need not be made at private sale, as I decline in all cases, so as to make it an object for persons at a distance to attend. Sale positive to the highest bidder, without reserve.

Numbering about fifty head of Horned Stock, including a variety of ages and sex, consisting of Pure Bred Short Horns, Devons, and Ayrshires; Southdown Buck Lambs, and a very few Ewes; Suffolk and Essex Swine. Catalogues, with full Pedigrees, &c., &c., will be ready for delivery on the first of May—to be obtained from the subscriber, or at the offices of any of the principal Agricultural Journals or Stores in the Union. This sale will offer the best opportunity to obtain very fine animals I ever have given, as I shall reduce my herd lower than ever before, contemplating a trip to Europe, to be absent a year, and shall not have another sale until 1854.

It will be seen by reference to the proceedings of our State Agricultural Society that I was the most successful exhibitor of Domestic Animals, at the late State Fair.

I will also offer a new feature to American Breeders—one which works well in Europe; that is, *letting* the *services of male animals*; and will solicit propositions from such as see fit to try it. CONDITIONS—The animal hired, to be at the risk of the owner, unless by some positive neglect or carelessness of the hirer; the expense of transportation to and from, to be borne jointly; the term of letting, to be one year or less, as parties agree; price to be adjusted by parties—to be paid in advance, when the Bull is taken away; circumstances would vary the price; animal to be kept in accordance with instructions of owner, before taking him away.

I offer on the foregoing conditions, three celebrated Prize Bulls, "Major," a Devon, nine years old; "Lamartine," Short Horn, four years old; "Lord Eryholme," Short Horn, three years old. Pedigrees will be given in Catalogues.

At the time of my sale, (and I would not part with them before) I shall have secured two or three yearly setts of their progeny; and as I shall send out in August next a new importation of male animals, I shall not want the services of either of these next year. I would not sell them, as I wish to keep control of their propagating qualities hereafter.

I also have one imported Buck, the prize winner at Rochester last fall, imported direct from the celebrated Jonas Webb; and also five yearling Bucks, winners also, bred by me, from Bucks and Ewes imported direct from the above celebrated breeder; they will be let on the same conditions as the Bulls excepting that I will keep them until the party hiring wishes them, and they must be returned to me again on or about Christmas Day. By this plan, the party hiring gets rid of the risk and trouble of keeping a Buck the year round. All communications by mail must be prepaid, and I will prepay the answers. L. G. MORRIS.

Mount Fordham, March, 1852. 1w*3m

State Mutual Life Assurance Co.

OF WORCESTER.

GUARANTEE CAPITAL, $100,000.

Hon. JOHN DAVIS, President.

Hon. ISAAC DAVIS, } Vice
Hon. STEPHEN SALISBURY, } Presidents.

THIS Company was chartered in March, 1844, and commenced business on the first of June, 1845. Its business is conducted on the most economical principles.

The well considered and invariable policy of this Company has been to prefer the safety and mutuality of the assured to the showy advantages of a large number of policies, and an imposing amount of receipts. California risks have been uniformly declined, and the multiplication of policies in cities considered especially liable to cholera has not been encouraged.

The cash premiums of this company are calculated on the most approved tables of the probability of life, and at the lowest rates which are deemed safe.

Pamphlets, explaining the principles and advantages of life assurance, with forms of application and rates of premium, may be had by application at the Office of the Company in Worcester, or of the Agents in all the principal towns in New England. CLARENDON HARRIS, Secretary.

Dec. 27, 1851. 1tf*

Bound Volumes.

BACK VOLUMES of the NEW ENGLAND FARMER, elegantly bound in Muslin, Gilt and Embossed, are now for sale at this office.

Boston, March 20, 1852. tf*

The Farmers' Library.

JUST RECEIVED, the following assortment of Agricultural and Horticultural Books, embracing the standard works of eminent American and European writers, on the Farm, the Orchard, the Garden, &c. &c.

	PRICE.
American Farm Book, by Allen,	$1,00
Farmer's Treasure, by Faulkner and Smith,	75
Dana's Muck Manual,	1,00
Prize Essay on Manures, by Dana,	25
American Muck Book, by Browne,	1,00
Lectures on Practical Agriculture, by Johnstone,	75
Elements of Scientific Agriculture, by Norton,	50
Principles of Agriculture, by Thaer,	2,50
Practical Agriculture, by Johnstone,	75
Agriculture for Schools, by Blake,	1,00
Catechism of Agriculture and Chemistry, by Johnstone and Norton,	25
American Agriculturist, by Allen,	1,00
Liebig's Complete Work on Chemistry,	1,00
Farmer's and Emigrant's Hand Book, by Marshall,	75
Home for all, by Fowler,	50
Book of the Farm, by Stephens and Skinner,	4,00
Cottage and Farm Houses, by Downing,	2,00
Downing's Country Houses,	1,00
Rural Architecture, by Allen,	1,25
Downing's Landscape Gardening and Rural Architecture,	3,50
Downing's Cottage Residences,	2,00
Fruit Garden, by Barry,	1,25
Complete Gardener and Farmer, by Fessenden,	1,25
Bridgeman's Gardener's Assistant,	2,00
Bridgeman's Kitchen Gardener's Instructor,	50
American Fruit Culturist, by Thomas,	1,00
Gardener and Complete Florist,	25
Florist's Guide, by Bridgeman,	50
New England Fruit Book, by Ives,	56
Youatt and Martin on Cattle, by Stevens,	1,25
Rose Culturist,	38
Johnson's Gardener's Dictionary, by Landreth,	1,50
Rural Economy, by Boussingault,	1,00
American Rose Culturist,	25
Bigelow's Plants of Boston,	1,25
Genera of Plants of the U. S., by Gray, 2 vols.	12,00
Gray's Botany,	2,00
Parnell's Chemistry,	1,00
New England Farmer, by Cole,	1,00
Ladies' Guide and Skilful Housewife, by Mrs. Abel,	25
Hive and Honey Bee, by Richardson,	25
Bee Keeper's Manual, by Miner,	50
Bird Fancier, by Browne, paper 25 cents,	50
Townley on Bees,	50
American Poultry Yard, by Browne,	1,00
American Poulterers' Companion, by Bement,	1,00
American Fowl Breeder, by Moore,	25
American Herd Book, by Allen,	3,00
American Shepherd, by Morrill,	1,00
Domestic Animals, by Allen,	75
Diseases of Animals, by Cole,	50
Hints to Sportsmen, by Lewis,	1,25
Dadd's Anatomy and Physiology of the Horse,	1.00
Mason's Farrier and Stud Book, by Skinner,	1,25
Management of Sheep, by Canfield,	1,00
Youatt on the Pig,	60
Knowlson's Complete Cow Doctor,	25
Horse Doctor,	25
Guenon's Treatise on Milch Cows,	38
Treatise on Hot Houses, by Leuchars,	1,00
Allen on the Grape,	1,00
Loudon's Encyclopædia,	10,00
Schenck's Text Book,	50
Breck's Book of Flowers,	75
Downing's Fruit and Fruit Trees,	1,50

For sale at the Publishers' prices by RUGGLES, NOURSE MASON & Co., Quincy Hall, (*over the Market*,) Boston.

April 3, 1852. tf*

Spring Seed Grain.

300 BUSHELS WHEAT, (*Black, Sea, Scotch Fife, Bald Club* and *Java*.

200 bushels Buckwheat.
800 do. Barley.
200 do. Spring Rye,—(*True*.)
800 do. Bedford Oats.
100 do. Millett.
10 do. African Millett,—(*Extra*.)

For sale by RUGGLES, NOURSE, MASON & CO.,
March 20, 1852. tf Over Quincy Market, Boston

Bolton Grey Fowls.

A few pairs CHOICE BOLTON GREY FOWLS, for sale; price moderate. Inquire at this office.

May 1, 1852. tf

Mexican Guano.

A NEW ARTICLE is now offered to the Agriculturist and Dealers, under the above name, from its having been found near the Mexican coast. It has been analyzed by C. T. Jackson, M. D., State Assayer, Boston, Dr. David Stewart, of Baltimore, and others. Dr. Stewart says it contains the largest proportion of Phosphates he has ever met with in Guano.

The following are the result of the analysis made by C. T. Jackson, M. D.:

Water	23.40
Vegetable Matter	15.80
Soluble Salts (in Water) Phos. Soda	0.12
Phosphates of Lime and Magnesia	60.50
Insoluble Matter (Selex)	0.10
	99.92

The quality of this Guano as a rich fertilizer, and the great reduction in price compared with the Peruvian, is such as render it an object for the agriculturist and dealers to buy and give it a trial. It has been tried in the vicinity of Norfolk, Va., and much approved by the Farmers, those who are now buying and using of it freely. It may be obtained in lots to suit purchasers of A. D. WELD, 127 State Street, PHINEAS SPRAGUE & Co, T Wharf, or of P. A. STONE, who is the importer, and may be found at 15 Crescent Place, Boston, where also other information may be obtained respecting it. It is also for sale by Parker & White, 8 and 10 Gerrish Block, Blackstone Street, D. Prouty & Co., 19 North Market Street.

March 27. tf—*

Albany Drain Tile Works,

No. 60 LANCASTER STREET,—West of Medical College.

THE subscriber has now on hand, and will furnish to agriculturists, Horse Shoe and Sole Tiles of the most approved patterns, suitable for land drainage, of a superior quality, of over one foot in length. Horse Shoe Tile 2½, 3½ and 4½ inches calibre, at $12, $15 and $18 ℔ 1000 pieces. Sole Tile 2½ and 3½ inches calibre, at $12 and 18 per 1000 pieces. They are so formed as to admit water at every joint, draining land from 12 to 20 feet each side of the drain, being the cheapest and most durable article used. The great importance of thorough drainage is daily becoming more apparent.

Orders from a distance will receive prompt attention.

Albany, N. Y., April 10. 12w—*6 JOHN GOTT.

Ayrshire Calves.

For sale at moderate prices, two full blood Ayrshire Calves, one 9 months and the other 2 months old.

Apply at office of New England Farmer.

May 22, 1852. tf

J. H. HAMMOND, Architect.

THE subscriber offers his services to those about erecting new, or altering old, buildings. He will furnish drawings and working plans, specifications, and every thing in relation to a clear understanding of what is wanted. He thinks he is able to present some new views in the construction of Barns, or in altering old ones, whereby more conveniences may be obtained and at less expense. His charges will be so moderate as to enable every farmer to avail himself of his services.

Address J. H. HAMMOND, Grafton, Mass.

May 22. tf

Now for Sale,

The most perfect and in every way the best Farm known to the subscriber. Said farm contains about sixty acres, and is on the east bank of the Connecticut river in Montague Meadows, Mass.

Also, about thirty-six acres in two of the most choice lots on the plain in said Montague.

Also, about sixty acres in two lots of the most valuable woodlands within the valley of the Connecticut river. They are near the Vermont and Massachusetts Railroad, at Grout's Corner, in said Montague.

Said above mentioned farm and other lands have been selected within the last sixteen years with a hope of possessing them during life, and all propositions for them have been refused. But as the subscriber has seen fit to change his location from Montague Meadows to Northfield Farms, they are now offered, and at prices which will ensure their sale. A further description will be given by mail if requested, and the subscriber will show the premises to any who may wish to purchase.

DEXTER PIERCE.

Northfield Farms, March 6th, 1852. tf

Garden Seeds.

WE respectfully solicit the attention of purchasers of GARDEN SEEDS to our extensive stock, which we offer for sale. We have all the sorts of Vegetable Seeds that have proved worthy of cultivation; also, Grain, Grass and Flower Seeds. All the varieties are raised and selected expressly for our trade, and we do with confidence recommend them to all who desire to procure seeds that will prove true to their names.

☞ Catalogues gratis, on application.

RUGGLES, NOURSE, MASON & CO.,

Jan. 1. Over Quincy Market, Boston.

Choice Seed Peas.

OUR stock of Seed Peas for the present season, is remarkably fine, and comprises all the really desirable sorts, such as

Early Prince Albert.
Early Kent.
Early Hill.
Early Washington.
Bishop's Dwarf—(*grows 12 inches high.*)
Eatable Podded Sugar.
Dwarf Blue Imperial.
Dwarf Marrowfat.
Missouri Dwarf Marrowfat.
Champion of England.
British Queen.
Fall Matchless Marrow.
Black Eyed Early Marrow.
Cluster—(*for Field Culture,*) &c. &c.

We can recommend them all, and purchasers may rely on their proving true to name. Please call and examine them at our Warehouse and Seed Store, over Quincy Market.

RUGGLES, NOURSE, MASON & CO.

Boston, March 20, 1852. tf*

Seed Potatoes.

CHOICE Early and Late sorts can be procured at our Seed Store. We invite particular attention to the "Eastern Early Blue," for very early, and the "Danvers Seedling" for late crops; of the latter sort 882 bushels were grown from 23 bushels of seed, the past summer.

RUGGLES, NOURSE, MASON & CO.,

Boston, March 27. Over Quincy Market.

Oyster Shell Lime.

THIS article, for use to the best advantage with meadow mud, may be mixed as follows:—Place a layer of about 12 inches of mud or peat, then a layer of from 2 to 3 inches of lime, and so on alternately until the heap is from 6 to 10 feet in height; let it stand at least 4 weeks. In this time the lime will be all slaked. Then turn it, and it will be fit for use.

By this process the humic acid which is contained more or less in all meadow land, is neutralized, and a compost is formed nearly equal to the best barn-yard manure.

This lime is offered at the low price of one shilling per barrel, delivered at the Kiln, at Medford Street, Charlestown, or if packed in barrels or hogsheads, at 35 cents per bbl., and delivered at any of the Railroad Depots in Boston or Charlestown, by JAMES GOULD, Agent, No. 70 State Street.

April 10, 1852. 8w℔

Farm for Sale,

Pleasantly situated on BEACH HILL, in the town of WARWICK. Said farm contains 175 acres of good land, well divided into Mowing, Tillage, Pasturing and Wood-land, with a two-story dwelling-house, two barns, sheds for cattle, a good carriage house, wood house, and other out-buildings, all in good repair. A large orchard, with a good assortment of Fruit, with over 900 scions set last spring, all in a flourishing condition.

This farm has a good supply of Wood, Water and Timber.

As I wish to go West in the spring, I will sell my Farm, Farming Tools, and Stock, very low. The farm alone for $1600.

Any one wishing to buy a good Farm for a LITTLE MONEY, will do well to call and look at the place before purchasing elsewhere. A liberal credit will be given if desired. Inquire at this office, or of ELI GROUT, on the premises.

Warwick, Mass., May 15, 1852. tf

The Massachusetts Militia,

AND all other Soldiers of 1812, '13 and '14, or in case of their death, their widows and minor children, can obtain Land Warrants, on application to the subscriber.

ILLINOIS LAND TITLES, granted to soldiers of the war of 1812, will be purchased.

Apply to EBEN SMITH, JR.,

Feb. 7, 1852. 6m 20 Court Street, Boston.

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Pure Devon Stock.

COWS, HEIFERS, BULLS and BULL CALVES for sale.

Apply at Office of N. E. Farmer, or to the subscriber.

B. V. FRENCH,
Braintree, Mass.

Dec. 27, 1851. 1yr*

Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store,

Quincy Hall, over the Market, Boston.

THE Proprietors having recently enlarged their Warehouse, and increased their works at Worcester, would respectfully invite the attention of Planters and Dealers in AGRICULTURAL and HORTICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS, GARDEN and FIELD SEEDS, &c., to their stock, comprising the largest and best assortments to be found in the United States, which are offered at low prices.

Of PLOUGHS—we have the greatest variety of kinds and sizes.

Improved Sod Ploughs, for flat furrows—improved Scotch Ploughs, for lapped furrows—improved Stubble Ploughs, which are especially adapted to deep tillage, or varying from 6 to 12 inches in depth.

Self-sharpening, Hill Side, Sub-soil, Double Mould, Corn, Cotton, and Rice Ploughs.

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Illustrated Catalogues sent gratis on application, post paid.

RUGGLES, NOURSE, MASON & CO.

Boston and Worcester, Mass., Jan. 1, 1852. tf

GRAPE VINES.

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Fruit and Ornamental Trees, and Shrubbery of all kinds, from the best nurseries in the vicinity of Boston.

SCIONS.

Scions of all the choice kinds of Apples, Pears, Plums and Cherries, selected by experienced fruit growers.

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A large assortment of Pruning and Budding Knives, Twig Cutters, Pruning Shears, Hedge do., Pruning Saws, Grafting Chissels, Strawberry and Weeding Forks, Transplanting Trowels, Sets of Ladies' Garden Tools, Shovels, Spades, Forks, Hoes in great variety, at wholesale and retail, at low prices, at RUGGLES, NOURSE, MASON & CO., (over the market.)

Boston, April 24, 1852. 6w*1

NEW ENGLAND FARMER

Is published on the first of every month, by JOHN RAYNOLDS and JOEL NOURSE, at Quincy Hall, South Market St., Boston.

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To prevent any misunderstanding, we quote the 16th section of the law of 3d March, 1845, which is as follows:

SEC. 16. And be it further enacted, that the term "Newspaper," herein before used, shall be, and the same is hereby defined to be, any printed publication, issued in numbers, consisting of not more than two sheets, and published at short stated intervals of not more than one month, conveying intelligence of passing events, and *bona fide extras* and *supplements* of such publication.